

Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: October 18-19, 2019 Briefing and Public Hearing

Agenda item: Petition: Colville River rules and inclusion of Meyers Falls

Presenter(s): Bill Baker, District 1 Fish Biologist, Fish Program

Background summary:

The Commission was petitioned in June 2019 to restore a year-round fishing season to the portion of the Colville River which extends from the mouth upstream to the bridge at the town of Valley. This portion of the Colville River was moved to a standard stream season (Sat. before Memorial Day-Oct. 31) during rule simplification in 2018. Prior to that, it had been regulated under a year-round open fishing season since 1950. Following the change enacted during rule simplification, staff received comments from the public and elected officials stating concern that the new season unnecessarily limits recreational opportunity, with much of the trout fishing opportunity occurring in late winter/early spring, prior to the current season opener. During that time, fishing conditions are more favorable than later in the spring and summer when water quality makes fishing difficult.

Staff recommendation:

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

A public news release and online notice through our website notified people of the opportunity to comment on this commission petition proposals. Department staff provided explanations for proposals. The end date for submitting comments is October 17, 2019. The Department has conducted a regional workshop with the public to discuss the rule process and proposed regulation changes.

- Spokane: beginning at 6 p.m., Oct. 2, Center Place, 2315 N. Discovery Place, Spokane Valley.
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Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Briefing and Public comment only. No action is requested at this time.

Draft motion language:

Motion: I move to _____ (adopt/amend/deny) _____ (rule(s)/petition) as presented by staff (if appropriate)

Is there a "second"?

If so, then motion maker discusses basis for motion; other Commissioners discuss views on motion; amendments, if any, proposed and addressed

Post decision communications plan:

WAC language for Colville River changes

WAC 220-312-050 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules—East-side. (1) Countywide freshwater exceptions to statewide rules:

((+76)) (78) Colville River (Stevens County): From the mouth to bridge at the town of Valley including Meyers Falls: Open year-round.