

Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: July 31, 2020

Agenda item: Mazama Pocket Gopher Recovery Plan and Periodic Status Review – Briefing and Public Comment

Presenter(s): Hannah Anderson, Diversity Division Manager, Wildlife Program
Derek Stinson, Wildlife Biologist, Diversity Division, Wildlife Program

Background summary: Department staff members will brief the Commission on the joint Recovery Plan and Periodic Status Review compiled for the Mazama Pocket Gopher in accordance with WAC 220-610-110. This document is the state recovery plan and first periodic status review for the Mazama Pocket Gopher; it is intended to provide a status update and guide conservation and recovery efforts. It identifies a recovery goal, specifies population targets for reclassification, and outlines recovery strategies and tasks. It also provides an update on the species' status since the 2005 status report and the 2013 draft recovery plan, based on recent research and monitoring information relevant to Mazama Pocket Gophers in Washington. The document includes information and comments provided by peer scientists and the public.

Staff recommendation: Maintain threatened status for the Mazama Pocket Gopher.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

- Protect and conserve Washington's native wildlife
 - Continue recovery actions for these state-listed species
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Fiscal impacts of agency implementation: No fiscal impacts beyond status quo.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

In February 2016, the agency sent out a press release and posted a request on our website to solicit information from the public to be included in the PSRs. In accordance with WAC regulations, individuals and organizations had one year to contribute information for the reviews. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) staff included this information as applicable in the status review documents. The documents were then reviewed by WDFW staff and external species experts before 90-day public comment periods on the document and our findings. The comments were collated, responded to, and included in the final Periodic Status Review.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Draft motion language: Briefing and public comment only.
