

## Your Own Conservation Management Model

**Scenario:** You and your team are managers of your community fish and wildlife agency.

**Challenges:** You are facing a decline in funding due to a lack of interest in hunting and angling licenses and decreased revenue from the Pittman-Robertson Act and the Dingell-Johnson Act. Simultaneously, you must also balance the interests of your community. Some people want more wildlife areas for non-consumptive recreation like wildlife photography and cross-country skiing, while others want more opportunities to fish, trap, harvest shellfish, and/or hunt. Some people want to see predator populations increase in the area, while others are concerned about predator presence.

**Task: You and your team will consider how to fund fish and wildlife conservation in your community while trying to balance varied interests.**

### The details:

- You have three wildlife areas in your community that you manage. Your current budget will not fund all the conservation work you want to do, so you and your team must choose your top three conservation management actions and justify them.
- Additionally, you will be asking the state legislature for more money next year to fund important conservation work. You must choose a method of conservation funding (see below) and justify why this funding is necessary ([see examples on WDFW's website](#)).

### Questions to address in your report:

- 1) What species are of [greatest conservation need](#) or concern? How do these species contribute to Washington's biodiversity and what ecosystem services might they provide?
- 2) How will you determine how these wildlife areas are used?
- 3) What is a real conflicting interest in Washington that you are going to focus on? What steps will you take to try and find compromise and help community members with different values?
- 4) How does science and research play into your plan?
- 5) How do community perceptions of fish, wildlife, and natural resource issues factor into your plan?
- 6) How does this plan promote biodiversity and the sustainability of natural resources?

### Questions for consideration:

- 1) Do you want to implement a user-pay, user-play model? I.e., people who participate in natural resource recreation (either for consumptive or non-consumptive activities) pay for it. Some examples could include park passes and hunting/fishing licenses.

- a. How will you consider people who may not be able to afford license fees, parking passes, or outdoor gear?
  - b. Will you try and implement a general conservation sales tax like [Missouri](#) to support conservation? (I.e., one cent from every \$8 spent goes toward conservation in Missouri).
  - c. Would a general sales tax be fair for people who don't participate in recreation? Is the benefit of having ecosystem services worth a tax on the general public?
  - d. Will you try and implement a tax on outdoor gear like canoes/kayaks/paddleboards, tents, binoculars, and backpacks?
  - e. What other ideas could you implement to support funding for non-consumptive recreation?
- 2) How will you make your model equitable for the most amount of people?
  - 3) Does your plan modify the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, keep it the exact same, or completely eliminate it and create a new one?

**Logistics:**

- You and your team will create a 9-12 page report that answers these questions.
- The report can be multi-media and you can create short videos, infographics, and other visual and audio media to supplement text.
- You must find and cite resources with both qualitative and quantitative data that support your management decisions. (For tips on seeing if a resource is credible or not, please see [have a CCOW](#) from Gonzaga University).