

Status of the American White Pelican in Washington

- Decision



Taylor Cotten
Wildlife Diversity Division,
Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife



AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN



White Pelicans have increased in Washington

- Badger Island colony has increased to >2,000 pairs
- New smaller colony (Miller Sands Spit, OR) in lower Columbia (and possibly Padilla Bay)
- Fisheries conflicts (significant for some runs/years)

but...

- Washington still consistently hosts only one colony
- Sensitive to disturbance and monitoring should continue



WAC 220.610.110

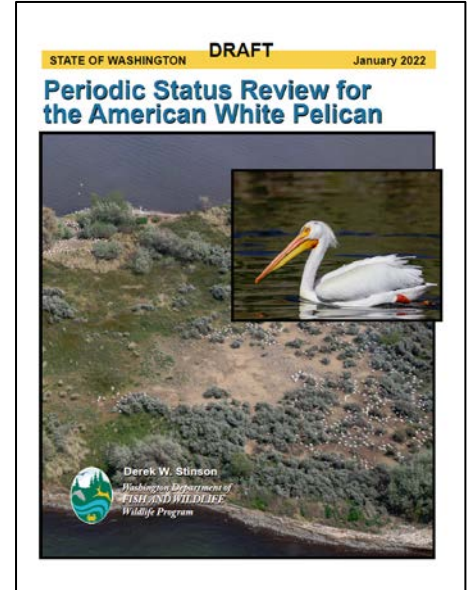
Recommendation and listing based solely on the biological status of the species.

Currently: threatened = “likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout a significant portion of its range ... without cooperative management or removal of threats.”

Recommendation:

Down-list the White Pelican to Sensitive

Sensitive = “vulnerable or declining and is likely to become endangered or threatened in a significant portion of its range within the state without cooperative management or removal of threats.”



Recommendation:

Down-list the White Pelican to Sensitive

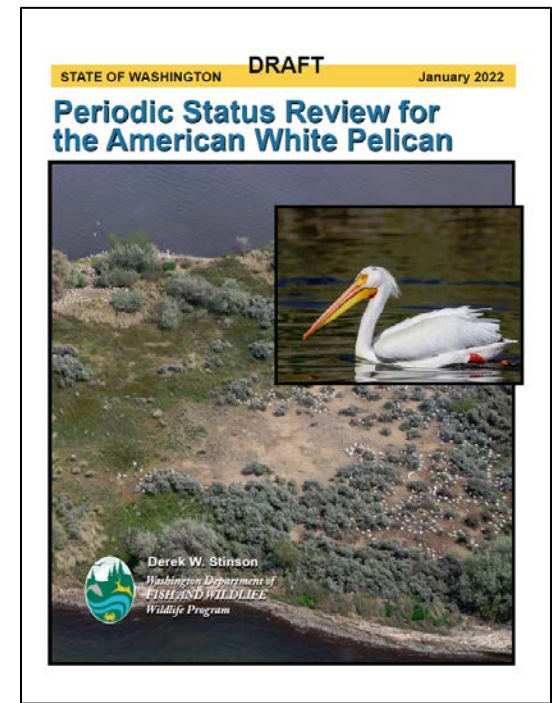
Public Comments on the draft PSR:

8 approved of decision to down-list (including the Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission)

0 opposed

3 expressed fisheries concerns

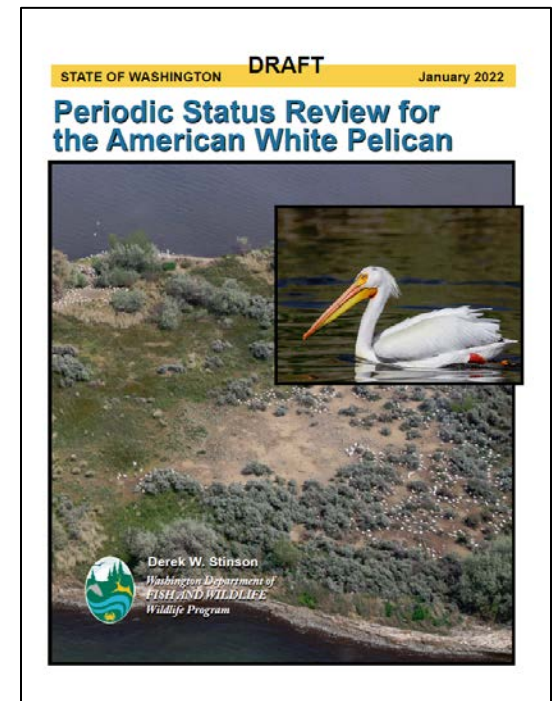
1 disapproved of hazing/dissuasion at dams



Public Hearing Comments:

Wildlife Diversity Advisory Council and Black Hills Audubon recommended maintaining as Threatened.

One individual was concerned with a downlisting to Sensitive and what that could mean for management.



Motion Language:

Down-list the White Pelican to Sensitive

- Motion: I move to adopt the recommended rule change as presented by Department staff or move to adopt rule change as the Commission deems appropriate.

Is there a “second”?