



## Minutes

### Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting October 27-29, 2022 – Colville Hybrid

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#### Attendance

##### Commission

Barbara Baker, Chair  
Molly Linville, Vice Chair  
Donald McIsaac  
Lorna Smith  
Tim Ragen  
John Lehmkuhl  
Jim Anderson  
Melanie Rowland  
Kim Thorburn

##### Staff

Joe Panesko, AGO  
Kelly Susewind, Director  
Amy Windrope, Deputy  
Director  
Karen Edwards  
Taylor Cotton  
Theresa Mitchell

##### Staff

Kelly Cunningham  
Theresa Mitchell  
Margen Carlson  
Theresa Nation  
David Trimbach

##### Commission Staff

Nichole Kloepfer

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#### Friday, October 28, 2022

##### 1. Call to Order

##### a. Commissioners' Discussion

Chair Baker called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Commissioner Anderson shared his experience during the Southeast Washington opener for deer season.

Commissioner Rowland shared her "Home Range Wildlife Research" experience.

Commissioner Thorburn shared her LPO national wildlife refuge experience.

Commissioner Smith shared her experience with a Roosevelt Elk herd.

Chair Baker noted that she attended the Centennial Accord.

##### b. Meeting Minute Approval

The Commission considered approval of the September 22-24, 2022, webinar meeting minutes and October 7, 2022, web conference.

**Commissioner Smith made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ragen, to approve the minutes from the September 22-24, 2022, hybrid meeting as presented. All in favor. Motion passes.**

**Commissioner Smith made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ragen, to approve the minutes from the October 7, 2022, web conference as presented. All in favor. Motion passes.**

##### c. Committee Reports - This Section constitutes the formal minutes from each of the listed committee meetings:

#### Habitat Committee

**Commissioners in attendance: Committee members Linville, Lehmkuhl, Smith, Ragen, Commissioners Baker, McIsaac, Rowland, and Anderson**

Vice Chair Linville reported that the committee discussed the [SSB 5273 Shoreline Armoring Rule](#) and was provided an update to the [Washington Shrub Steppe Restoration and Resilience Initiative](#).

**Wildlife Committee**

**Commissioners in attendance: Committee members Thorburn, Rowland, Anderson, Smith and Commissioners Lehmkuhl and Ragen**

Commissioner Thorburn reported the committee was provided a [Game Management Plan update](#) and discussed the [Commission and Department Authorities](#). Staff provided a [State species listing overview](#) of the species in Washington State.

**Fish Committee**

**Commissioners in attendance: Committee members McIsaac, Ragen, and Anderson Commissioners Smith and Lehmkuhl**

Commissioner McIsaac reported the committee was provided a [Coastal Steelhead update](#) and had an [Initial Draft Hatchery Production Workshop Terms of Reference](#) discussion.

Staff proposed to bring back another hatchery production workshop terms of reference draft for further evaluation as their proposal will suggest a multi-workshop approach.

Commissioner McIsaac suggested moving the Willapa Alternative 4 discussion from the December meeting to the January meeting. He also suggested a special fish Committee on November 30 to discuss Bouy 10 concerns.

**2. Open Public Input**

The following people provided input on various topics:

Senator Shelly Short – Prey/predator balance

Commissioner Mark Burrows – predator management

Representative Joel Kretz - predator management

Marie Neumiller – wildlife management

Kaezin Goodman - predator management

Timothy Coleman - predator management

Dale Magart - predator management

Lynn Okita – wolf-livestock chronic conflict areas

Sam Bruegger – wildlife management

Windora Bradburn - predator management management

Bill Philpott - Prey/predator balance

Dan Wilson - Prey/predator balance management

Freddie Gianecchini – wildlife mismanagement

Bob Nelson - predator management

Chris Loggers – wildlife management management/ 4-point restriction

Dennis Kester – population dynamics

Jon Dykes – predator management

Hannah Thompson-Garner- wildlife management

Commissioner West McCart – predator management

Ted Wishon - predator management

Chris Bachman – beaver relocation

Grant Peterson - predator management

Dave Hedrick – WDFW strategic plan

Al Martz – Spring bear hunting

Ryan Garrett – Spring bear hunting

Steve Bruchman - predator

Shane Merrill - Prey/predator balance

Pat Runnels – wildlife management

Randy Huenergardt - predator

Frank Palmer- predator management

Jim Ebel - predator management

William McGraw - predator

Scott Nielsen - predator management

Gary Douvia - predator management

Commissioner Brian Smiley - predator management

Chair Baker moved the Directors report to Saturday morning.

**3. Land Transaction – Briefing, Public Comment, and Decision**

Karen Edwards, Real Estate Manager provided the Commission with a briefing and asked the Commission to consider the approval of one land transaction recommended by the Department to enhance conservation and public recreation opportunities.

There were no comments for this item.

**Commissioner Smith made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rowland to approve the land transaction as presented by staff to acquire up to 103(+/-) acres, with priority and emphasis on preserving the home on the property from demolition, if possible. Options to be explored prior to requiring demolition include, but are not limited to, excluding the home and county minimum lot size from the acquisition and exploring alternative buyers to acquire the home. Commissioner Linville against. Majority in favor. Motion passes.**

**Lunch**

**4. Caribou Periodic Status Review (Maintain) – Briefing, Public Comment, Decision**

Taylor Cotten, Conservation Assessment Section Manager briefed the Commission and ask for a decision on the recommendation to maintain the endangered status of the Caribou.

The following people provided comments:

Dan Wilson                      Marie Neumiller                      Ray Entz                      Bart George

**Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Linville that the woodland caribou maintain its current status as an Endangered species in Washington as recommended by Department staff. Majority in favor. Motion passes.**

**5. Duckabush Estuary Restoration Project – Briefing**

Theresa Mitchell, Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project Program Manager, and Margen Carlson, Director, Habitat Program briefed the Commission on the progress of the project.

**6. Shoreline Armoring Rule Making (SSB 5273) – Briefing, Public Hearing**

Theresa Nation, Environmental Planner, Habitat Program, and Margen Carlson, Director, Habitat Program briefed the Commission on the amendment to WAC 220-660-370 Bank Protection to align with Substitute Senate Bill 5273 (SSB 5273), passed by the legislature in 2021.

The following people provided comments:

Kathleen Callaghy                      Mindy Roberts                      Scott Andrews

**Break**

**7. Spring Bear Hunting Policy Development Process (This is a process-only agenda item.)**

The Commission discussed elements of a possible structured decision-making process in the development of a Spring Bear Hunting Policy.

## Recess

### Saturday, October 29, 2022

Chair Baker called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Chair Baker struck the Hatchery Workshop Discussion from the agenda.

#### 8. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Commissioner Greg Young - predator management	Dan Wilson – Spring bear
Matthew Schultz – Spring bear hunting	Matthew Bippes – Spring bear hunting
Louise Russell – wolf management	Sam Bruegger – biodiversity support
Ann Prezyna – beaver management	David Linn – Game Management Plan
Susan Kane-Ronning – beaver/bear management	

#### 9. ~~Hatchery Workshop Agenda Discussion – Briefing, Planning Decision~~

~~The Commission will discuss the development of the Hatchery Workshop agenda and address the next steps.~~

~~Staff Report: Kelly Cunningham, Director, Fish Program~~

#### 10. Directors Report (this was moved from Friday)

Director Susewind provided an overview of current events, activities, and meetings of impact within and about the agency.

Deputy Director Windrope mentioned the ending of the Governors Emergency Proclamation October 31, 2022.

Steve Pozzanghera, Region 1 Director provided an update on regional activities.

#### 11. Meeting Debrief and Future Meeting Planning

The Commission discussed items immediately before, during, or after the meeting and considered future agenda planning.

Commissioner McIsaac requested to:

- Add Hatchery Production Workshop Terms of Reference as a Fish Committee and main commission agenda item for December
- Reschedule Coastal Steelhead Proviso to November 17th and add public comment.
- Add Spring Bear Hunt Policy discussion to YAAG.
- Add public comment to the Coastal Steelhead Proviso agenda item in December.

Commissioner Lehmkuhl expressed interest in a cougar/wolf management briefing.

Commissioner Smith is working with Julia Smith on a Wolf Blue Sheet that will come to the Wildlife committee in March as a half-day workshop.

The Commission agreed to have the November 18 full-day hybrid meeting in Olympia.

**12. Executive Session**

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) and RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g), the Commission met in an executive session. No action was taken during the executive session, and the public was not permitted to attend.

Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

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Nichole Kloepfer, Executive Assistant

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