

Periodic Status Review: Columbian White-tailed Deer –

Briefing or Decision

WAC 220-610-010 Wildlife classified as endangered species.
and

WAC 220-200-100 Wildlife classified as protected shall not be hunted or fished.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Summary Sheet.....	1
WAC 220-610-010 Wildlife classified as endangered species	3
WAC 220-200-100 Wildlife classified as protected shall not be hunted or fished	6
CR-102	11



Fish and Wildlife Commission Presentation Summary Sheet

Meeting date:

December 9, 2022

Agenda item:

Columbian River White-Tailed Deer Periodic Status Review – Briefing, Public Hearing, Decision

Presenter(s):

Jeff Azerrad and Taylor Cotten

Background summary:

Columbian white-tailed deer were listed at the federal level in 1970 and 1973, and by the State of Washington in 1980. Since 1980, the size of the lower Columbia River Columbian white-tailed deer population has fluctuated. Surveys conducted by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimated a low of only 545 deer in 2002. The population is now substantially higher, with an estimated population of 1,296 deer in 2022.

In our last periodic status review, we stated our concerns about the vulnerability of occupied habitat to threats such as climate change, emerging diseases, and a lack of secure and functionally connected habitat. At that time, we were also uncertain about the viability of a newly established subpopulation at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. Although the threats have not abated since then, we are no longer uncertain about the viability of the Ridgefield subpopulation given the encouraging projections of the viability assessment for this subpopulation. We are now much more confident that the deer at Ridgefield have established into a viable subpopulation with significant growth potential.

With this development, we believe the lower Columbia River Population no longer fits the definition of Endangered as it is no longer under “serious threat of extinction” (Washington Administrative Code 220-610-110). The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife thus recommends reclassifying the Columbia River Population of Columbian white-tailed deer to Threatened.

Staff recommendation:

Columbian White-tailed deer is currently classified as an Endangered Species in Washington. We are recommending it be reclassified as a Threatened species.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

Threatened species fall under a different WAC than Endangered with slight differences in penalties around malicious or intentional take of individuals. The species is and will remain on the Priority Habitat and Species list. We are communicating a lower level of conservation concern with the adoption of a Threatened status and acknowledging successful management and conservation gains made in the last five years.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

None

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The Periodic Status Review was distributed to external partners and peers for review. After comments from peers and partners were incorporated it was open to a 90-day public comment period. We received six public comments. Four reviewers supported our recommendation to reclassify the species from Endangered to Threatened. One reviewer provided a personal anecdote on the species and their interactions on their property, and the final comment was a suggestion to improve formatting on one of the tables.

During the SEPA comment period, we received one comment from a group that also comments on the document with the same language and supporting the reclassification. And a second comment asking that we look into the origin of the species around rumors that the animals were transplanted from Puget Island. We have contacted that individual and described our translocation work which did move animals from a source population on Puget Island to other locations within the recovery area as described in the Periodic Status Review.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Briefing and Decision. We are hoping to have both the briefing and decision at this meeting which is different than how we have approached rule changes around listed species in recent years.

Draft motion language:

Move that the Columbian White-tailed Deer be re-classified as a Threatened Species as recommended by Department staff.

Post decision communications plan:

Our current management of the species will not change and will continue to focus on recovery of Columbian White-tailed Deer. We will share information with the public affairs team for any necessary news release as well as update the website with the final Periodic Status Review for the species.

Form revised 1-20-21

N E W S E C T I O N

WAC 220-610-010 Wildlife classified as endangered species.

Endangered species include:

Common Name	Scientific Name
Oregon vesper sparrow	<i>Pooecetes gramineus affinis</i>
pygmy rabbit	<i>Brachylagus idahoensis</i>
fisher	<i>Pekania pennanti</i>
gray wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>
grizzly bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>
killer whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i>
sei whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>
fin whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>
blue whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>
humpback whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>
North Pacific right whale	<i>Eubalaena japonica</i>
sperm whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>
Columbian white-tailed deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus leucurus</i>
woodland caribou	<i>Rangifer tarandus caribou</i>
Columbian sharp-tailed grouse	<i>Tympanuchus phasianellus columbianus</i>
sandhill crane	<i>Grus canadensis</i>
snowy plover	<i>Charadrius nivosus</i>
upland sandpiper	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>
spotted owl	<i>Strix occidentalis</i>
western pond turtle	<i>Clemmys marmorata</i>
leatherback sea turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>
mardon skipper	<i>Polites mardon</i>
Oregon silverspot butterfly	<i>Speyeria zerene hippolyta</i>
Oregon spotted frog	<i>Rana pretiosa</i>
northern leopard frog	<i>Rana pipiens</i>
Taylor's checkerspot	<i>Euphydryas editha taylori</i>
Streaked horned lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris strigata</i>
Tufted puffin	<i>Fratercula cirrhata</i>
North American lynx	<i>Lynx canadensis</i>
marbled murrelet	<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Loggerhead sea turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>
Yellow-billed cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>
Pinto abalone	<i>Haliotis kamtschatkana</i>
Greater sage grouse	<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>
Ferruginous hawk	<i>Buteo regalis</i>

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, and 77.12.020. WSR 21-20-010 (Order 21-196), § 220-610-010, filed 9/23/21, effective 10/24/21. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, and 77.12.240. WSR 21-13-032 (Order 21-60), § 220-610-010, filed 6/10/21, effective 7/11/21. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, and 77.12.020. WSR 21-07-019 (Order 21-15), § 220-610-010, filed 3/5/21, effective 4/5/21. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.055, 77.12.020, and 77.12.047. WSR 19-13-013 (Order 18-120), § 220-610-010, filed 6/7/19, effective 7/8/19; WSR 18-17-153 (Order 18-207), § 220-610-010, filed 8/21/18, effective 9/21/18. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.020, and 77.12.047. WSR 17-20-030 (Order 17-254), § 220-610-010, filed 9/27/17, effective 10/28/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, and 77.12.047. WSR 17-05-112 (Order 17-04), recodified as § 220-610-010, filed 2/15/17, effective 3/18/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.020, and 77.12.047. WSR 17-02-084 (Order 17-02), § 232-12-014, filed 1/4/17, effective 2/4/17; WSR 16-11-023 (Order 16-84), § 232-12-014, filed 5/6/16, effective 6/6/16; WSR 15-10-022 (Order 14-95), § 232-12-014, filed 4/27/15, effective 5/28/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.020. WSR 06-04-066

(Order 06-09), § 232-12-014, filed 1/30/06, effective 3/2/06;
WSR 04-11-036 (Order 04-98), § 232-12-014, filed 5/12/04,
effective 6/12/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047,
77.12.655, 77.12.020. WSR 02-11-069 (Order 02-98), § 232-12-014,
filed 5/10/02, effective 6/10/02. Statutory Authority: RCW
77.12.040, 77.12.010, 77.12.020, 77.12.770, 77.12.780. WSR 00-
04-017 (Order 00-05), § 232-12-014, filed 1/24/00, effective
2/24/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.020. WSR 98-23-013
(Order 98-232), § 232-12-014, filed 11/6/98, effective 12/7/98;
WSR 97-18-019 (Order 97-167), § 232-12-014, filed 8/25/97,
effective 9/25/97; WSR 93-21-026 (Order 616), § 232-12-014,
filed 10/14/93, effective 11/14/93. Statutory Authority: RCW
77.12.020(6). WSR 88-05-032 (Order 305), § 232-12-014, filed
2/12/88. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.040. WSR 82-19-026
(Order 192), § 232-12-014, filed 9/9/82; WSR 81-22-002 (Order
174), § 232-12-014, filed 10/22/81; WSR 81-12-029 (Order 165), §
232-12-014, filed 6/1/81.]

N E W S E C T I O N

WAC 220-200-100 Wildlife classified as protected shall not be hunted or fished. Protected wildlife are designated into three subcategories: Threatened, sensitive, and other.

(1) Threatened species are any wildlife species native to the state of Washington that are likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout a significant portion of their range within the state without cooperative management or removal of threats. Protected wildlife designated as threatened include:

Common Name	Scientific Name
western gray squirrel	<i>Sciurus griseus</i>
sea otter	<i>Enhydra lutris</i>
green sea turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>
Mazama pocket gopher	<i>Thomomys mazama</i>
American white pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>
<u>Columbian white-tailed deer</u>	<u><i>Odocoileus virginianus leucurus</i></u>

(2) Sensitive species are any wildlife species native to the state of Washington that are vulnerable or declining and are likely to become endangered or threatened in a significant portion of their range within the state without cooperative management or removal of threats. Protected wildlife designated as sensitive include:

Common Name	Scientific Name
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Common Name	Scientific Name
Gray whale	<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>
Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>
Larch Mountain salamander	<i>Plethodon larselli</i>
Pygmy whitefish	<i>Prosopium coulteri</i>
Margined sculpin	<i>Cottus marginatus</i>
Olympic mudminnow	<i>Novumbra hubbsi</i>

(3) Other protected wildlife include:

Common Name	Scientific Name
cony or pika	<i>Ochotona princeps</i>
least chipmunk	<i>Tamias minimus</i>
yellow-pine chipmunk	<i>Tamias amoenus</i>
Townsend's chipmunk	<i>Tamias townsendii</i>
red-tailed chipmunk	<i>Tamias ruficaudus</i>
hoary marmot	<i>Marmota caligata</i>
Olympic marmot	<i>Marmota olympus</i>
Cascade golden- mantled ground squirrel	<i>Callospermophilus saturatus</i>
golden-mantled ground squirrel	<i>Callospermophilus lateralis</i>
Washington ground squirrel	<i>Urocitellus washingtoni</i>
red squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>
Douglas squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus douglasii</i>
northern flying squirrel	<i>Glaucomys sabrinus</i>
Humboldt's flying squirrel	<i>Glaucomys oregonensis</i>
wolverine	<i>Gulo gulo</i>
painted turtle	<i>Chrysemys picta</i>
California mountain kingsnake	<i>Lampropeltis zonata</i>

All birds not classified as game birds, predatory birds or endangered species, or designated as threatened species or sensitive species; all bats, except when found in or immediately adjacent to a dwelling or other occupied building; mammals of

the order *Cetacea*, including whales, porpoises, and mammals of the order *Pinnipedia* not otherwise classified as endangered species, or designated as threatened species or sensitive species. This section shall not apply to hair seals and sea lions which are threatening to damage or are damaging commercial fishing gear being utilized in a lawful manner or when said mammals are damaging or threatening to damage commercial fish being lawfully taken with commercial gear.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, and 77.12.020. WSR 21-20-010 (Order 21-196), § 220-200-100, filed 9/23/21, effective 10/24/21. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, and 77.12.240. WSR 21-13-032 (Order 21-60), § 220-200-100, filed 6/10/21, effective 7/11/21. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.055, 77.12.020, and 77.12.047. WSR 18-17-153 (Order 18-207), § 220-200-100, filed 8/21/18, effective 9/21/18. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.020, and 77.12.047. WSR 17-20-030 (Order 17-254), § 220-200-100, filed 9/27/17, effective 10/28/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, and 77.12.047. WSR 17-05-112 (Order 17-04), recodified as § 220-200-100, filed 2/15/17, effective 3/18/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.020, and 77.12.047. WSR 17-02-084 (Order 17-02), § 232-12-011, filed 1/4/17, effective 2/4/17; WSR 15-10-021

(Order 14-95), § 232-12-011, filed 4/27/15, effective 5/28/15.
Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.020. WSR 08-03-068
(Order 08-09), § 232-12-011, filed 1/14/08, effective 2/14/08;
WSR 06-04-066 (Order 06-09), § 232-12-011, filed 1/30/06,
effective 3/2/06. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.655,
77.12.020. WSR 02-11-069 (Order 02-98), § 232-12-011, filed
5/10/02, effective 6/10/02. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047.
WSR 02-08-048 (Order 02-53), § 232-12-011, filed 3/29/02,
effective 5/1/02; WSR 00-17-106 (Order 00-149), § 232-12-011,
filed 8/16/00, effective 9/16/00. Statutory Authority: RCW
77.12.040, 77.12.010, 77.12.020, 77.12.770. WSR 00-10-001 (Order
00-47), § 232-12-011, filed 4/19/00, effective 5/20/00.
Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.040, 77.12.010, 77.12.020,
77.12.770, 77.12.780. WSR 00-04-017 (Order 00-05), § 232-12-011,
filed 1/24/00, effective 2/24/00. Statutory Authority: RCW
77.12.020. WSR 98-23-013 (Order 98-232), § 232-12-011, filed
11/6/98, effective 12/7/98. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.040.
WSR 98-10-021 (Order 98-71), § 232-12-011, filed 4/22/98,
effective 5/23/98. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.040 and
75.08.080. WSR 98-06-031, § 232-12-011, filed 2/26/98, effective
5/1/98. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.020. WSR 97-18-019 (Order
97-167), § 232-12-011, filed 8/25/97, effective 9/25/97.
Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.040, 77.12.020, 77.12.030 and
77.32.220. WSR 97-12-048, § 232-12-011, filed 6/2/97, effective
7/3/97. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.020. WSR 93-21-027 (Order
615), § 232-12-011, filed 10/14/93, effective 11/14/93; WSR 90-
11-065 (Order 441), § 232-12-011, filed 5/15/90, effective

6/15/90. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.040. WSR 89-11-061
(Order 392), § 232-12-011, filed 5/18/89; WSR 82-19-026 (Order
192), § 232-12-011, filed 9/9/82; WSR 81-22-002 (Order 174), §
232-12-011, filed 10/22/81; WSR 81-12-029 (Order 165), § 232-12-
011, filed 6/1/81.]



PROPOSED RULE MAKING

CR-102 (July 2022) (Implements RCW 34.05.320) Do NOT use for expedited rule making

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: October 26, 2022
TIME: 8:34 AM

WSR 22-22-041

Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) P2022-13]

- Original Notice**
- Supplemental Notice to WSR** _____
- Continuance of WSR** _____

- Preproposal Statement of Inquiry was filed as WSR 22-18-049 on August 30, 2022 ; or**
- Expedited Rule Making--Proposed notice was filed as WSR _____; or**
- Proposal is exempt under RCW 34.05.310(4) or 34.05.330(1); or**
- Proposal is exempt under RCW _____.**

Title of rule and other identifying information: (describe subject) Periodic Status Review: Columbian white-tailed deer. WAC 220-200-100 and WAC 220-610-010

Hearing location(s):

Date:	Time:	Location: (be specific)	Comment:
December 9-10, 2022	8:00 a.m.	Clarkston, WA.	Information on how to register to testify at the public hearing is available at: http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/commission.meetings , or contact the Commission office at (360)-902-2267.

Date of intended adoption: On or after December 9, 2022 (Note: This is **NOT** the **effective** date)

Submit written comments to:

Name: Wildlife Program
 Address: PO Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504
 Email: WhiteTailedDeer@PublicInput.com]
 Fax: (360) 902-2162
 Other: <https://publicinput.com/WhiteTailedDeer>
 By (date) November 23, 2022
 SEPA Comments: whitetaileddeersepa@PublicInput.com
 To Comment by Phone: 855-925-2801 – Project code: 4007

Assistance for persons with disabilities:

Contact Title VI/ADA Compliance Coordinator
 Phone: (360) 902-2349, TTY 711
 Fax:
 TTY:
 Email: Title6@dfw.wa.gov
 Other: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/requests-accommodation>
 By (date) November 23, 2022

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: Due to conservation gains in particular the success of translocated populations, Columbian white-tailed deer may no longer meet the definition of Endangered in the state of WA. We propose changing their classification to Threatened which to better align with the definition and reflect the reduced conservation concern and highlight the success.

Reasons supporting proposal: We are no longer uncertain about the viability of the Ridgefield subpopulation given the encouraging projections of the viability assessment for the subpopulation. We are now much more confident that the deer at Ridgefield have established into a viable subpopulation with significant growth potential. With this development, we believe the lower Columbia River Population no longer fits the definition of Endangered as it is no longer under serious threat of extinction. (Washington Administrative Code 220-610-010) The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife thus recommends reclassifying the Columbian white-tailed deer to Threatened.

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, and 77.08.030.

Statute being implemented: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, and 77.08.030.

Is rule necessary because of a:

- Federal Law? Yes No
- Federal Court Decision? Yes No
- State Court Decision? Yes No

If yes, CITATION:

Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement, and fiscal matters: None.

Type of proponent: Private Public Governmental

Name of proponent: (person or organization) Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Name of agency personnel responsible for:

	Name	Office Location	Phone
Drafting:	Eric Gardner	1111 Washington St. SE Olympia, WA. 98501	(360) 902-2515
Implementation:	Eric Gardner	1111 Washington St. SE Olympia, WA. 98501	(360) 902-2515
Enforcement:	Steve Bear	1111 Washington St. SE Olympia, WA. 98501	(360) 902-2373

Is a school district fiscal impact statement required under [RCW 28A.305.135](#)?

Yes No

If yes, insert statement here:

The public may obtain a copy of the school district fiscal impact statement by contacting:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

TTY:

Email:

Other:

Is a cost-benefit analysis required under [RCW 34.05.328](#)?

Yes: A preliminary cost-benefit analysis may be obtained by contacting:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

TTY:

Email:

Other:

No: Please explain: This proposal does not require a cost benefit analysis under RCW 34.05.328

Regulatory Fairness Act and Small Business Economic Impact Statement

Note: The [Governor's Office for Regulatory Innovation and Assistance \(ORIA\)](#) provides support in completing this part.

(1) Identification of exemptions:

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, **may be exempt** from requirements of the Regulatory Fairness Act (see [chapter 19.85 RCW](#)). For additional information on exemptions, consult the [exemption guide published by ORIA](#). Please check the box for any applicable exemption(s):

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under [RCW 19.85.061](#) because this rule making is being adopted solely to conform and/or comply with federal statute or regulations. Please cite the specific federal statute or regulation this rule is being adopted to conform or comply with, and describe the consequences to the state if the rule is not adopted.

Citation and description:

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt because the agency has completed the pilot rule process defined by [RCW 34.05.313](#) before filing the notice of this proposed rule.

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under the provisions of [RCW 15.65.570\(2\)](#) because it was adopted by a referendum.

- This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under [RCW 19.85.025\(3\)](#). Check all that apply:
- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(b)
(Internal government operations) | <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(e)
(Dictated by statute) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(c)
(Incorporation by reference) | <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(f)
(Set or adjust fees) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(d)
(Correct or clarify language) | <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(g)
(i) Relating to agency hearings; or (ii) process requirements for applying to an agency for a license or permit) |
- This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under [RCW 19.85.025\(4\)](#) (does not affect small businesses).
- This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW _____.
- Explanation of how the above exemption(s) applies to the proposed rule:

(2) Scope of exemptions: *Check one.*

- The rule proposal is fully exempt (*skip section 3*). Exemptions identified above apply to all portions of the rule proposal.
- The rule proposal is partially exempt (*complete section 3*). The exemptions identified above apply to portions of the rule proposal, but less than the entire rule proposal. Provide details here (consider using [this template from ORIA](#)):
- The rule proposal is not exempt (*complete section 3*). No exemptions were identified above.

(3) Small business economic impact statement: *Complete this section if any portion is not exempt.*

If any portion of the proposed rule is **not exempt**, does it impose more-than-minor costs (as defined by RCW 19.85.020(2)) on businesses?

- No Briefly summarize the agency's minor cost analysis and how the agency determined the proposed rule did not impose more-than-minor costs. _____
- Yes Calculations show the rule proposal likely imposes more-than-minor cost to businesses and a small business economic impact statement is required. Insert the required small business economic impact statement here:

The public may obtain a copy of the small business economic impact statement or the detailed cost calculations by contacting:

Name:
Address:
Phone:
Fax:
TTY:
Email:
Other:

Date: 10/26/2022

Name: Chris Fredley

Title: Agency Rules Analyst

Signature:

