



## Fish and Wildlife Commission Presentation Summary Sheet

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**Meeting date:**

6/22/2023

**Agenda item:**

5. Conservation Policy—Briefing, Public Comment

**Presenter(s):** Nate Pamplin, Director of External Affairs

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**Background summary:**

The F&W Commission has written a draft Conservation Policy. At the March 2023 meeting in Wenatchee, the Commission asked staff to work with the Chair to make a few edits based on the Commission discussion and then distribute for public comment. Further, during the discussion, the Commission agreed to have the Director/Deputy Director seek input from the Department's Executive Management Team and for them to discuss how to operationalize/implement the draft Conservation Policy.

For public input:

- Staff issued a news release in English and Spanish on April 10, 2023. The news release was distributed to partners and advisory group members.
  - An email was sent to federally recognized tribes in Washington and to tribes that have off-reservation hunting and fishing rights in Washington inviting input.
  - From April through June, the Department purchased additional social media ads in English and Spanish.
  - The opportunity to comment on the draft policy was included in the March/April edition of the Director's Bulletin.
  - A news release to remind the public about the opportunity to comment was distributed on June 1, 2023.
  - As of the morning of June 15, the Department has received 858 emails and 239 people have submitted comments on the PublicInput portal.
  - The hearing on June 22 is for verbal public comment on the draft policy.
  - The public comment period closed June 30.
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**Staff recommendation:**

For a process for the Commission to read through comments, deliberate on a revised draft, and potentially adopt, I propose the following timeline:

- June 22: Big Tent Committee: Director Susewind summarizes feedback from his Executive Management Team.
- June 22: FWC: Verbal public comment opportunity
- June 30: Public comment period closes
- July: Staff review/summarize public comment; send all public comments received to FWC.
- Aug 10-12: FWC Big Tent discussion on public comment and identify areas to edit in draft Policy; Big Tent Committee reports to full Commission and there will be an agenda item during the August meeting to seek additional input from the Commission for areas to edit and incorporate public feedback.
- August-September: FWC Big Tent Committee revises draft for full Commission consideration in October.
- October 26-28: FWC discussion and potential adoption of Conservation Policy.

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**Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:**

N/A for today's agenda.

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**Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:**

N/A for today's agenda.

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**Public involvement process used and what you learned:**

See above for public involvement to date; comment period remains open through June 30, 2023.

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**Action requested and/or proposed next steps:**

N/A

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**Draft motion language:**

N/A

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**Post decision communications plan:**

Not yet developed.

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