

# Update on GMP, Policies & Season Setting

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# Commission Direction

## June 22, 2023 Seattle, WA

The Wildlife Committee Chair made the following recommendations that the Commission endorsed:

- New GMP should be a single document that would go through a new SEPA process as required;
- Shift priority of conversations at Wildlife Committee from GMP to development of Wildlife Policies;
  - High level updates and review of GMP will still occur at WLC
  - Policy discussion topics were refined to shorter list
- Staff will proceed with 3-year season setting process, at least for those rules that would be invalid otherwise.



# GMP Timelines

Complete writing in two phases. SEPA process commences once writing is completed.

Chapters targeted for completion by November 2023:

- Overarching Chapter
- Migratory Birds
- Bear
- Cougar
- White-tailed deer
- Elk
- Predator prey



# GMP Timelines

Chapters targeted for completion by July 2024:

- Black-tailed deer
- Moose
- Mountain goat
- Bighorn sheep
- Upland Game
- Small game and furbearers
- Mule deer
- Pronghorn



# GMP Timelines

## Wildlife Committee touch points:

- November 2023: Share bear and cougar issue statements. Possible policy discussion on bear and cougar.
- December 2023: Share elk and WTD issue statements. Possible predator prey chapter issues statement discussion. (dependent on policy direction)
- Meanwhile, staff continue writing chapters to meet timeline



# GMP Timelines

Wildlife Committee touch points:

- January 2024: Share remaining GMP issue statements. Possible policy discussion
- February 2024: Continued Policy, GMP discussion



# Potential Game Policy Topics – June, 2022

1. Game Species Conservation Principles
2. Carnivore hunting policy
3. Structuring sustainable hunting opportunity and providing guidance regarding how to maximize public recreational hunting opportunities in the full context of RCW 77.04.012 and associated legislation
4. Potential topic: Furbearer/Beaver management



# GMP Policy Topic Discussion Outcomes

1. Game Species Conservation Principles:
  - Already incorporated in the overarching chapter of the GMP and can be addressed there





# GMP Policy Topics

## 2. Carnivore Hunting Policy:

- Requires WLC discussion leading to potential Commission policy development and adoption



# GMP Policy Topics

3. Structuring sustainable hunting opportunity and providing guidance regarding how to maximize public recreational hunting opportunities in the full context of RCW 77.04.012 and associated legislation:

- This is addressed in the GMP and can be further developed during that and/or another focused process.



# Season Setting Process and Timeline

- May-July 2023: gather internal and external ideas
- August-September 2023: gather public input on the proposals
- October-November 2023: write rules for filing
- December 2023: file CR 101
- February 2024: file CR 102
- March 2024: Commission briefing
- April 2024: Commission decision



# Season Setting Recommended Approach

- Continue season setting process for rules that require it
- Work with WLC and Commission to determine which are appropriate to move ahead with absent new policy or GMP
- Delegate to Director
- Keep bear and cougar rules as is until science/policy work is completed sufficiently to inform any change (e.g. a Commission policy and/or a new GMP is completed)



# Next Rule Making Steps (Delegate?)

- Share the viable rulemaking ideas with the wildlife committee
- Garner additional ideas from committee members
- Gather public opinion on the ideas from the public through a survey
- Write rules that incorporate the supported changes
- Promulgate rules through formal rule making process



# Policy/GMP Carnivore Work

- Update from Dr. Donny Martorello on collaboration work with Game Division regarding bear and cougar harvest guidelines



# Questions?

