



Minutes

Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission
Special Web Conference
Friday, September 08, 2023
Olympia, Washington

Attendance

Commission:

Barbara Baker, Chair
Molly Linville, Vice Chair
Lorna Smith
Steve Parker
Woody Myers
James R. Anderson
John Lehmkuhl
Melanie Rowland
Tim Ragen

Department Staff:

Kelly Susewind, Director
Joe Panesko, AGO
Amy Windrope, Deputy Director
Anis Aoude
Thomas Woodruff
Lt. Kit Rosenberger
Eric Gardner
Stephanie Landry
Jim Brown

Commission Staff:

Tami Linger

Vice Chair Linville called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

A. Lands Transaction – Briefing, Public Comment and Decision

Thomas Woodruff and Lt. Kit Rosenberger presented a proposed acquisition of a home and a couple of acres for Enforcement Housing in Forks.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the land transaction as presented by staff. Commission Anderson seconded the motion, all were in favor. The motion passed.

B. Petitions: Spring Bear 2024 Recreational Hunting – Briefing, Decision

Eric Gardner introduced staff to present on two petitions, one submitted July 14, 2023 and the other on August 20, 2023. Stephanie Landry gave a briefing on infanticide and Anis Aoude gave a briefing on the social science around the spring bear petitions. There was no new information for the Commission to consider.

Commissioner Rowland made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ragen to deny the Spring Bear petition received on July 14, 2023. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Commissioner Rowland made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ragen to deny the Spring Bear petition received on August 20, 2023. All were in favor and the motion passed.

C. Petition: Rulemaking for Year-Round Cougar Hunting Season in Washington State - Briefing, Decision

Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager presented a petition to “begin rulemaking for Year-Round Cougar Hunting in Washington State.”

Commissioner Ragen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rowland, to deny the petition as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passed.

D. Petition: Rulemaking to amend the Cougar Management Removal Permit Program and WAC 220-440-030 – Briefing, Decision

Jim Brown, Wildlife Conflict Section Manager provided a briefing on a petition to amend the Cougar Management Removal Permit Program and WAC 220-440-030.

Commissioner Rowland made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ragen to deny the petition as recommended by staff. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Chair Baker announced that the retreat agenda has not been finalized yet, but Commissioners should plan to be in Yakima the evening of September 27th through September 30th mid-day.

The next steps for the Conservation Policy will be discussed during the meeting debrief in September. If there are any edits it will go back out for public review and comment. Commissioner Rowland reminded everyone this was policy not a plan as previously referred to. Commissioner Smith said she hoped there wouldn't be much of a delay. Commissioner Anderson said we need a solid, successful, and sustainable policy.

Vice Chair Linville adjourned the meeting at 2:46 p.m.

Tami Lininger, Executive Assistant