



Fish and Wildlife Commission Presentation Summary Sheet

Meeting date:

8/9/2024

Agenda item:

2025 Agency Request Legislation – Decision

Presenter(s):

Tom McBride, Legislative Director

Background summary:

Legislative policy proposals were solicited from programs and regions; reviewed by EMT and briefed to the FWC in June 2024. Draft fact sheets and draft statutory language are included within the materials for this presentation. The Department is recommending the following two proposals advance:

1. Increase the personalized license plate renewal fee from \$42 to \$52. The funds are used for habitat and species diversity work and underpin our biodiversity efforts.
 2. Create civil infraction enforcement options for current criminal fish and wildlife violations. These options apply to less egregious situations where a civil fine is believed to lead to better compliance. Current crimes remain available for violations involving killing of big game or public safety risks.
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Staff recommendation:

Staff are seeking approval from the Commission to advance these two proposals as agency request legislation for the 2025 legislative session.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

1. Increase personalized license plate fee: Increase funding for diversity efforts.
 2. Create civil infraction enforcement options for current criminal fish and wildlife violations: Ensure better enforcement of hunting and fishing regulations through right sized penalties.
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Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

1. Increase personalized license plate fee: Increase revenue for diversity, estimated at \$1.6M per biennium.
 2. Create civil infraction enforcement options for current criminal fish and wildlife violations: Increased revenue collection through infraction issuance to the state General Fund and possibly for county PILT options.
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Public involvement process used and what you learned:

We are targeting select outreach to involved partners and state agencies (below). The proposals were shared and discussed with the Budget and Policy Advisory Group (BPAG) on May 23rd and July 23rd. The proposals were also shared with tribal partners on April 24th, June 11th, and July 23rd. Tom will be conducting further outreach with the AAGs.

1. Increase personalized license plate fee: Outreach to DOL, who understand the PLP proposal and may want to talk about timing of implementation.
 2. Create civil infraction enforcement options for current criminal fish and wildlife violations: Positive initial response from guides and charters over knowingly allowing client infractions.
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Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Approval of proposed agency request legislation for submittal to the 2025 legislative session.

Draft motion language:

“I move that we approve the PLP renewal fee increase from \$42 to \$52, and we approve the creation of increased civil infraction options for fish and wildlife violations.” (This can be a single motion or taken sequentially)

Post decision communications plan:

These items will be shared with OFM and the Governor’s Office in September if approved, and with Legislators during the 2025 Legislative Session. Legislative factsheets and other outreach materials will be posted to the Department’s website and provided to the Commission.
