



2013 AGENCY REQUEST LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting

August 3, 2012

Ann Larson, Legislative Liaison

2013 Proposal Timeline

- ▣ May 11 – submit draft proposals
- ▣ May 14 - Director's Office review
- ▣ May 16, June 27, July 18 – EMT review
- ▣ **August 3 – FWC review**
- ▣ August 17 – FWC approval
- ▣ September 5 – submit to OFM/Governor
(without fiscal impacts)
- ▣ September 21 – submit to OFM/Governor
(with fiscal impacts)

Context for 2013 Session

- ▣ Slow economic recovery
- ▣ Biennial budget year
- ▣ Change in the Governor's Office
- ▣ Unprecedented election year
 - August 7 – Primary Election
 - November 6 – General Election

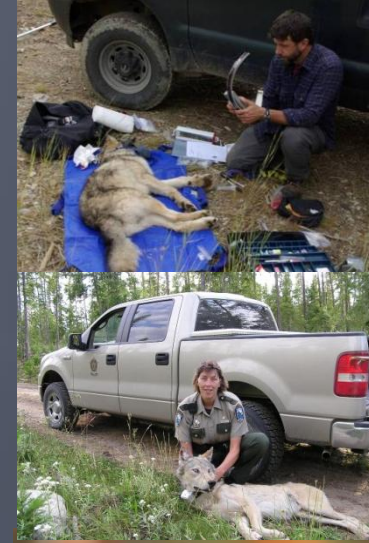
2013 Agency-Request Summary

1. Wolf Conflict Management
2. Citizen Volunteer Science
3. Hunter Education
4. License Revocations
5. Background Checks
6. Invasive Species Management

Wolf Conflict Management

Problem Statement:

- ❑ Large carnivores are living in close proximity to humans populations;
- ❑ Potential for conflicts including damage to livestock and property;
- ❑ During 2012 Session, the Legislature provided \$50K from WLS to compensate for depredation losses; but,
- ❑ Additional resources are needed for ongoing conflict management.



Wolf Conflict Management

Proposed Solution:

- ▣ Classify wolves as big game thereby adding a criminal wildlife penalty of \$4000;
- ▣ Establish an independent account for livestock losses where unspent funds are available for future use; and,
- ▣ Create a wolf background plate to fund non-lethal technical assistance and management tools.



Citizen Volunteer Science

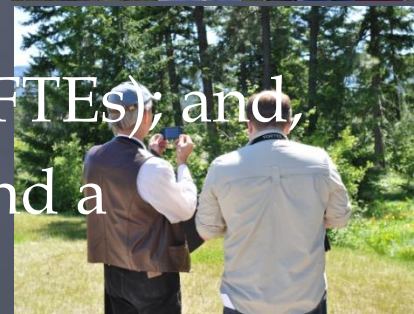
Problem Statement:

- ▣ There is an increasing demand for scientifically-credible data on wildlife species.
- ▣ This demand requires an increased workforce, but at a time when the Department has limited funds and a shrinking budget.

Citizen Volunteer Science

Proposed Solution:

- ▣ Increase the cost of the personalized license plate by \$10 to fund:
 - Coordination, research, and monitoring (4FTEs); and,
 - Scientific protocols, a statistical baseline, and a volunteer network for projects.
- ▣ Enlist citizens to obtain scientific information for managing wildlife; and,
- ▣ Reconnect Washingtonians to the outdoors and our state's fish and wildlife.



Hunter Educaiton

Problem Statement:

- ▣ Hunters as young as 8 years old can hunt without supervision;
- ▣ Instructors are not paid and often collect donations during class, which is contrary to WDFW policy; and,
- ▣ Course offerings are free and hunters often register for multiple class, but only attend one class.

Hunter Education



Proposed Solution:

- ▣ Require all hunter education students be at least 8 years old,
- ▣ Require hunters between 8 and 14 be accompanied by an older licensed hunter,
- ▣ Establish a course fee up to \$25 to deter students from registering for more than once class and enable more students to attend; and,
- ▣ Help volunteer instructors by purchasing equipment and teaching aids.

License Revocations

Problem Statement:

- ▣ Current law requires permanent suspension of hunting and fishing privileges if a person hunts or fishes while these privileges are already suspended.
- ▣ Permanent license revocation could result if a person hunts or fishes on an already revoked license because of nonpayment of child support.
- ▣ Governor Gregoire has recommended a legislative change that would help incentivize comply with child support payment provisions.

License Revocations

Proposed Solution:

- ▣ Reduce the lifetime license revocations that are based on a child-support license violation:
 - Second-degree violation – 2 year privilege suspension
 - First-degree violation – 4 year privilege suspension

Background Checks

Problem Statement:

- ▣ WDFW lacks the statutory authority to perform background checks on people who:
 - Have unsupervised access to children under 16, developmentally disabled, and vulnerable adults;
 - Have access to WDFW's sensitive data, technology, and equipment;
 - Are issued firearms to perform duties; or,
 - Are suspects in employee-criminal misconduct cases.

Background Checks

Proposed Solution:

- ▣ Authorize background checks for:
 - Have unsupervised access to children under 16, developmentally disabled, and vulnerable adults;
 - Have access to WDFW's sensitive data, technology, and equipment;
 - Are issued firearms to perform duties; or,
 - Are suspects in employee-criminal misconduct cases.

Invasive Species Management



Problem Statement:

- ❑ Current statute on invasive species is scattered throughout Title 77 RCW;
- ❑ Regulatory gaps have been identified by the Washington Invasive Species Council;
- ❑ The spread of invasive species could cost the state hundreds of millions in management and mitigation cost

Invasive Species Management

Proposed Solution:

- ▣ Consolidate aquatic invasive species statutes into a single chapter; and,
- ▣ Incorporate terrestrial invasive species for a unified management approach.

QUESTIONS?