

## Summary

---

**Meeting dates:** February 26-27, 2016

**Agenda item:** Periodic Status Reviews - Decision

**Presenter(s):** Penny Becker Ph.D., Diversity Division Manager; Joseph Buchanan, Natural Resource Scientist; Derek Stinson and Gary Wiles, Wildlife Biologists

---

### **Background summary:**

Department staff members have briefed the Commission on the periodic status reviews compiled for Northern Spotted Owl, Snowy Plover, Western Gray Squirrel, and Greater Sage-grouse in accordance with WAC 232-12-297. These documents on four state listed species outline the current status of the species and include information and comments provided by peer scientists and the public. Staff provided their recommendations to the Commission as to the appropriate classifications for these species at the January meeting and are now requesting that the Commission continue these classification designations as recommended.

---

### **Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:**

- Protect and conserve Washington's native wildlife.
  - Continue recovery actions for these state-listed species.
- 

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

On February 11, 2014, the agency sent out a press release and launched a website to solicit information from the public to be included in the periodic status reviews. In accordance with WAC, individuals and organizations had one year to contribute information for the reviews. Staff included this information, as applicable, in the status review documents. The documents were then reviewed by WDFW staff and external species experts before a 90 day public comment period began on the document and our findings. The comments were collated, responded to, and included in the final periodic status reviews. The final documents were shared with the Commission and staff briefed the Commission on their findings in January 2016.

---

### **Action requested:**

Decision to retain classification designations of the Northern Spotted Owl, Snowy Plover, Western Gray Squirrel, and Greater Sage-grouse as presented.

---

### **Draft motion language:**

I move to retain the Northern Spotted Owl as endangered, the Snowy Plover as endangered, the Western Gray Squirrel as threatened, and the Greater Sage-grouse as threatened, as presented by department staff.

---

### **Justification for Commission action:**

Conserve and recover Washington's state-listed species.

---

### **Communications Plan:**

WDFW Website  
News Releases

---