

## SUMMARY SHEET

---

**Meeting:** March 18-19, 2016  
**Agenda Item:** Predator Prey Management – **Briefing**  
**Prepared By:** Mick Cope, Game Division Manager, Wildlife Program  
**Presented By:** Mick Cope, Game Division Manager, Wildlife Program

---

**Background:**

Department staff will provide the Commission with an overview of the complex issues related to predator/prey management in Washington. This briefing will focus on predator/prey issues concerning deer, elk, moose, and bighorn sheep populations and how the Department is implementing predator and prey management objectives described in the 2015-2021 Game Management Plan.

With wolves recolonizing the state, many Washington residents are concerned that increased predator populations will result in decreased ungulate populations. The Department has recognized that predator management can be a viable management tool in a variety of predator/prey systems and has developed guidelines for predator management that are now included in the 2015-2021 Game Management Plan. In addition, the Game Management Plan includes objectives within the ungulate chapters that describe ungulate herd assessments for potential impacts from predation. These assessments are intended to identify whether specific ungulate herds are below management objectives and whether additional investigations are needed to determine if predation, or some other factor like habitat loss, is a driving force.

---

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

None – briefing only

---

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

Management of large carnivore species and ungulates dynamics were discussed and incorporated into the Game Management Plan. As a part of that process, the Department is aware that the public has a strong interest in predator-prey dynamics and the potential implications to the status of prey species.

---

**Action requested (identify the specific Commission decisions you are seeking):**

NA – Briefing only.

---

**Draft motion language:**

NA – Briefing only.

---

**Justification for Commission action:**

NA – Briefing only.

---

**Communications plan:**

NA – Briefing only.

---