

Periodic Status Review: Pygmy Rabbit

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Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: June 15-16, 2018

Agenda item: Periodic Status Reviews: Pygmy Rabbit – **Briefing, Public Hearing, and Decision**

Presenter(s): Hannah Anderson, Listing and Recovery Section Manager, Diversity Division, Wildlife Program

Background summary:

Department staff members will brief the Commission on the Periodic Status Review (PSR) compiled for the pygmy rabbit in accordance with WAC 220-610-110. This PSR outlines the current status of the species and includes information and comments provided by peer scientists and the public.

Staff recommendation:

Maintain endangered status for the pygmy rabbit in Washington.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

- Protect and conserve Washington’s native wildlife.
 - Continue recovery actions for these state-listed species.
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Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

No fiscal impacts beyond the status quo.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

In February 2015, the agency sent out a press release and posted a request on our website to solicit information from the public to be included in the PSR. In accordance with WAC regulations, individuals and organizations had one year to contribute information for the reviews. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) staff included this information, as applicable, in the status review document. The document was then reviewed by WDFW staff and external species experts before a 90-day public comment period began on the document and our findings. All comments were collated, responded to, and included in the final Periodic Status Review.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

To maintain the pygmy rabbit as an endangered species.

Draft motion language:

Motion: I move to maintain endangered status for the pygmy rabbit as recommended by department staff.

Is there a “second”?

If so, then motion maker discusses basis for motion; other Commissioners discuss views on motion; amendments, if any, proposed and addressed.

Post decision communications plan:

WDFW Website

News Release

Form revised 2-15-18