



PETITION FOR ADOPTION, AMENDMENT, OR REPEAL OF A STATE ADMINISTRATIVE RULE

Print Form

In accordance with RCW 34.05.330, the Office of Financial Management (OFM) created this form for individuals or groups who wish to petition a state agency or institution of higher education to adopt, amend, or repeal an administrative rule. You may use this form to submit your request. You also may contact agencies using other formats, such as a letter or email.

The agency or institution will give full consideration to your petition and will respond to you within 60 days of receiving your petition. For more information on the rule petition process, see Chapter 82-05 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) at http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=82-05.

CONTACT INFORMATION (please type or print)

Petitioner's Name Brad Thomssen
Name of Organization
Mailing Address
City State Zip Code
Telephone 425-890-4649 Email

COMPLETING AND SENDING PETITION FORM

- Check all of the boxes that apply.
Provide relevant examples.
Include suggested language for a rule, if possible.
Attach additional pages, if needed.
Send your petition to the agency with authority to adopt or administer the rule. Here is a list of agencies and their rules coordinators: http://www.leg.wa.gov/CodeReviser/Documents/RClist.htm.

INFORMATION ON RULE PETITION

Agency responsible for adopting or administering the rule: WDFW

1. NEW RULE - I am requesting the agency to adopt a new rule.

The subject (or purpose) of this rule is: Please See Attached

The rule is needed because: Please See Attached

The new rule would affect the following people or groups: Please See Attached

2. AMEND RULE - I am requesting the agency to change an existing rule.

List rule number (WAC), if known: _____

I am requesting the following change: _____

This change is needed because: _____

The effect of this rule change will be: _____

The rule is not clearly or simply stated: _____

3. REPEAL RULE - I am requesting the agency to eliminate an existing rule.

List rule number (WAC), if known: _____

(Check one or more boxes)

It does not do what it was intended to do.

It is no longer needed because: _____

It imposes unreasonable costs: _____

The agency has no authority to make this rule: _____

It is applied differently to public and private parties: _____

It conflicts with another federal, state, or local law or rule. List conflicting law or rule, if known: _____

It duplicates another federal, state or local law or rule. List duplicate law or rule, if known: _____

Other (please explain): _____

Sent via Email to:

rules.coordinator@dfw.wa.gov

commission@dfw.wa.gov

Kelly.Susewind@dfw.wa.gov

ruth.musgrave@gov.wa.gov

November 1st, 2024

Rules Coordinator
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
P.O. Box 43200
Olympia, WA 98504-3200

Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501

Director Kelly Susewind
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501

Ruth Musgrave
Senior Policy Advisor to Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Director Susewind, Commissioners, and WDFW Rules Coordinator:

In accordance with RCW 34.05.330, please accept this petition asking the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife to begin rulemaking for a Spring Black Bear Hunting Season.

Today, November 1st 2024, New Hampshire Fish and Game is pleased to welcome Stephanie L. Simek, PhD as their new Executive Director.

Former statewide carnivore manager Stephanie Simek, who was lost to WDFW after this commission's controversial spring bear hunt decision, starts her new job as the director of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department today.

Stephanie brought sound science, research and answered questions and concerns the WDFW Commission had about Black Bears.

Problem was, the current WA State Commission didn't listen, or actually didn't like what they were hearing.

Good to see Stephanie doing well.

Good to see the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department is on the side of science and research.

The New Hampshire Commission voted 100% unanimous to support her nomination to the New Hampshire Governor.

The WDFW Commission should have listened to her when they had the chance.

Begin rulemaking for the Washington State Spring Bear Hunting Season.

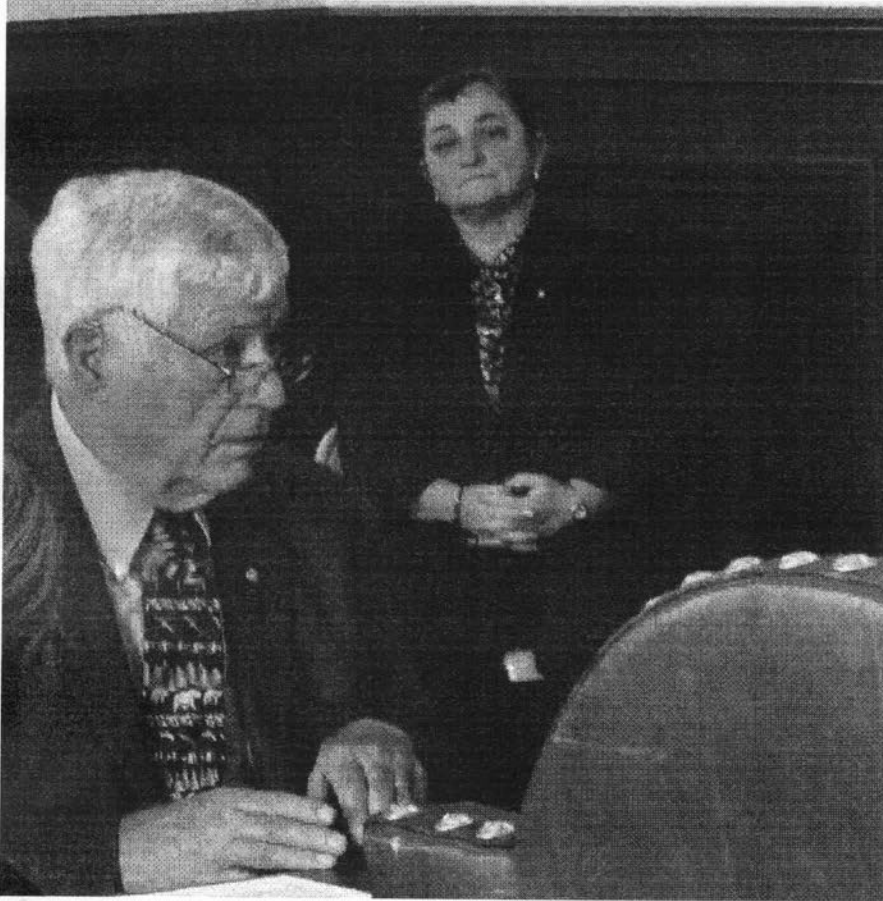
Thank-you,

Brad Thomsen

NEWS

Nominee for Fish and Game Director Praised at Public Hearing

By PAULA TRACY, InDepthNH.org August 13, 2024



Paula Tracy photo

Eric Stohl, Coos County Commissioner of Fish and Game is pictured in the foreground. Dr. Stephanie L. Simek is pictured standing at a public hearing Tuesday on her nomination to head the Department of Fish and Game.

By PAULA TRACY, InDepthNH.org

CONCORD – Dr. Stephanie L. Simek, Washington state’s expert on large game carnivores, including cougars and wolves, answered questions of the state’s Executive Council Tuesday as she is the governor’s pick to run the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department as its new executive director.

If confirmed, she will be the state’s first female director and likely the first who is not an avid hunter. The council will meet on Aug. 30 to decide on her nomination following the hearing, which was largely positive.

Simek said the job in New Hampshire requires flexibility, both social and environmental, lots of transparency and the department faces numerous challenges from what she can see, including budgetary considerations.

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She said the size of the staff is good and could allow for an “open door policy” which she would favor.

Climate change, invasive species and disease threats are new challenges the department also faces, she acknowledged in addition to maintaining a budget which relies heavily on hunting and fishing license sales right now.

The department is guardian of the state's wild resources and has a mission to conserve, manage and protect them and their habitats, including coastal marine resources, and to inform and educate the public about them. The Fish and Game Commission acts as an advisory board to the director and all are informed by the department's biologist and law enforcement divisions among other divisions on how to proceed.

After a nationwide search this spring, Simek was the unanimous pick of the state's Fish and Game Commission to fill the spot being vacated this month by Coos County's Scott Mason, who did not seek reappointment.

Gov. Chris Sununu, a Republican, said the commission gave him one name though there was an in-house finalist from within the department whom he did not name. The fact that the vote was unanimous weighed heavily in his decision to nominate her, he said, recently.

Coos County Fish and Game Commissioner Eric Stohl, who represented the search committee, said they reached out to 150 wildlife agencies nationwide and received 47 applications. They interviewed six applicants but only three met the requirements for the job under state law, RSA 206:a.

There were two out of state videos including one with Simek. They flew Simek here to meet with the search committee and "we were very, very satisfied," he said.

The vote was 100 percent unanimous to support her nomination to the governor.

Simek's current position is as a Regional Manager for the Washington Parks and Recreation Commission in Olympia, Washington. She has 30 years experience in the field and holds a doctor of philosophy in Forest Resources from Mississippi State University and a Master of Science in Environmental and Forest Biology from the State University of New York in Syracuse.

Her resume states she has handled capturing wildlife, data collection, employee engagement and has the ability to "stay calm in high-pressure environments."

Born in upstate New York near the Adirondacks, she moved around due to her father's work in the Armed Services and grew up all over the world.

Her mother was an entrepreneur who had to adapt after each new deployment.

"I'm super excited about this possibility," she said.

She thanked the Executive Council for the opportunity to meet and thanked both the governor and the Fish and Game Commission for their selection of her, stakeholders and members of the public for attending the hearing.

"It's an honor to receive this nomination," Simek said.

In her opening statement, she said she has led teams in potentially contentious situations, does not like to sit, is a creative thinker, empathetic and spent her entire career in resource management.

She was one of the first women to lead a black bear management project in the country.

"I support the cultural heritage of hunting and fishing," Simek said and is eager to "find common ground" with various groups and organizations.

She said her philosophy is that common ground can be found in any controversy.

The fact that more than 70 percent of the land in New Hampshire is privately held offers an opportunity to work collaboratively.

Executive Councilor Joe Kenney of Wakefield, a Republican whose district includes the Lakes Region, White Mountains and the Great North Woods, said he has to work with the Fish and Game from search and rescue, OHRV issues, and even once, how to dispose of a decaying moose on someone's lawn.

He asked her how she balanced the needs of the general public and those who are using and consuming the resource, including fish and game.

"I believe you have to manage each situation independently," Simek said, on a case by case basis.

He asked about her skill sets dealing with legislative bodies.

She said she created a wolf advisory group which created a mitigation plan to compensate ranchers for their losses and brought it to the legislature.

She said she sees hunting and fishing as a tool to manage the populations, educate the public, and experience the outdoors and said it is a part of the cultural heritage of the state.

"It is a value for them," she said.

She worked in Virginia and Florida where development was happening everywhere in 2004-2008 and found a lot of conflict with bears and worked with Florida developers to create greenspaces to allow them access to reservoirs.

She said transparency is key and "it starts with the director," to set the tone.

Asked what she sees as the largest challenge for the department, she said there are many competing demands but a need to see some more fiscal support.

"I do have quite a bit of homework to do," if confirmed, Simek said.

She suggested that a revenue source might come from out of state where there is a significant draw for tourism and noted the issue of the declining moose population is a poignant one.

But she noted that out of state tourism may hold a key to improving the fiscal outlook, while not elaborating.

Executive Councilor Cinde Warmington of Concord, a Democrat, asked about differences between Washington State and New Hampshire. Simek responded this is a much smaller staff size, interest in the public is real and there is likely concern about someone coming from the West and how that might alter the laws.

She said New Hampshire enjoys a good reputation across the country and that those who work here enjoy their jobs and get out in the field.

Warmington, who is running for governor, asked about the fish hatcheries which are under modification because of the need to clean up their waste water.

Simek said she enjoys salmon and halibut fishing and has been hunting with her father but is not an avid hunter. However, she does hold a hunting license.

Executive Councilor Janet Stevens of Rye, a Republican, said there are 222 employees in Fish and Game.

Simek said she is ultimately responsible for about 204 in a hierarchical system in Washington but has direct supervision over a handful.

Stevens asked about offshore wind and Simek said she did not know a lot about it but was interested in learning about it and the challenges it may present.

Executive Councilor David Wheeler of Milford, a Republican, asked about carbon credit farms and how it impacts habitat management.

She said it is a new issue in Washington as well, and has not managed it but believes there is common ground that can be established.

After the council finished questions, the public was offered a chance to comment on the nomination.

Dr. Weldon Bosworth, of the NH Wildlife Coalition, said he was also at the hearing in 2020 for the current director and was pleased with Simek's communication skills and resume.

He said he takes a bit of umbridge with the idea that removal of a certain percent of species can be achieved while keeping the population healthy and acknowledged that the federal money from the sales of equipment is only a small percentage of the budget for the department.

Bosworth said Simek's experience dealing with contentious situations bodes well for her candidacy.

John Klose of Epsom, a hunter, trapper and fisherman and former employee of the department, said he is very impressed by Simek's words and resume.

"Unbelievable. She seems to be the first one...who knows what to do," he said.

He said the department is the worst he has seen in 16 years. "She's going to have her hands full," he said. "She just can't do it all herself."

He suggested an audit of the department as the first action she should take.
