



Rulemaking Petition Summary Sheet

Response due date:

03/21/2025

Agenda item:

A petition that asks the commission to begin rule making for a Spring Black Bear Hunting Season.

Presenter(s):

Stephanie Landry, Section Manager, Game Division, Wildlife Program.

Background summary:

The petitioner states, "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." The petitioner also references an article from the Sportsmen's Alliance about the group suing WDFW for delaying a Public Records Request about the Commission decision to end spring black bear hunting back in fall of 2022. The request of this petition is to begin rulemaking for a spring black bear hunting season.

Staff recommendation:

This is a repeat petition from the same petitioner that the Department has received and responded to multiple times. This newest petition does not provide any additional justification that would change previous decisions that have been made by the Commission and the Director, once petitions were delegated. Due to the Commission's motion in 2022 and past denials by the Commission and the Director, staff recommend denying this petition.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

If the Director denies the petition, no rule making will take place to contemplate a spring black bear recreational hunting season.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

If the Director denies the petition and no rulemaking occurs, the fiscal impact of this decision is expected to be minimal.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Not applicable.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

The Wildlife Program recommends the petition be denied.

Post decision communications plan:

WDFW will communicate the outcome of the Director's decision to the petitioner.