



1 The Department maintains that it requires three times this amount in reserve to support  
2 financial stability for operations. Commissioner Buckmaster asked at the January 15,  
3 2016 Commission Meeting what portion of the Department's monthly operational costs  
4 were dedicated or obligated funds. Page 4 of this report shows that almost 10% of the  
5 Department's expenditures consist of these dedicated or obligated funds. Given  
6 variances in month to month spending patterns, it is still prudent to maintain an  
7 operational reserve covering three months' expenditures, or \$36-\$39 million.

#### 8 9 Cougar Plan Review Process

10 *Derek Broman, Carnivore and Furbearer Coordinator*

11  
12 Wildlife Division will invite interested stakeholders to participate on panel at April  
13 Commission Meeting. During the April panel discussion the Commission will be able to  
14 talk about issues and concerns directly with the stake holders. The Cougar Plan was  
15 last updated in 2010; there have been a lot of findings that will need to be brought up to  
16 date. The department will take the Commission guidance. The Commission was  
17 provided a timeline for this review process.

18  
19 *This timeline is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*  
20 [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/02\\_february/index.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/02_february/index.asp)

#### 21 22 **Adopt Temporary Rules**

23 Curt Melcher, Director, requested the Commission ratify the following temporary rules.  
24 The seven temporary rules were previously adopted by the director under his  
25 emergency action authority.

##### 26 27 **1.) 635-006-0210**

#### 28 **Electronic Fish Tickets Reporting Commercial Sales of Salmon, Sturgeon, Smelt and** 29 **Shad Required**

30 Adopted January 26, 2016: effective February 1, 2016 through July 29, 2016.

31 This amended rule requires, by way of electronic fish receiving tickets (e-ticket),  
32 the reporting of commercial sales of salmon, sturgeon, smelt and shad landed  
33 downstream of Bonneville Dam and purchased by wholesale fish dealers, wholesale  
34 fish bait dealers, and food fish canners. Modifications also require e-tickets be  
35 submitted within 24 hours of the closure of a fishing period or within 24 hours of the  
36 landing when fishing periods are longer than 24 hours.

##### 37 38 **2.) 635-042-0130**

#### 39 **2016 Commercial Smelt Season Set for the Columbia River**

40 Adopted January 27, 2016: effective February 1, 2016 through February 29, 2016.

41 This amended rule sets a commercial gill net fishing season for smelt in Zones 1-  
42 3 of the Columbia River. The fishery consists of 7-hour fishing periods beginning  
43 7:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m., Mondays and Thursdays of each week from February 2  
44 through February 25, 2016. Revisions are consistent with the action taken January 27,  
45 2016 by the Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife in a meeting of  
46 the Columbia River Compact.

1       **3.) 635-041-0065**

2       **2016 Treaty Indian Winter Commercial Fisheries in Zone 6 of the Columbia River**  
3       **Set**

4       Adopted January 27, 2016: effective February 1, 2016 through March 31, 2016.

5       This amended rule sets both the platform hook-and-line and gill net Treaty Indian  
6       winter commercial seasons for 2016. The modifications allow commercial sales, in  
7       Oregon, of fish caught in Bonneville, The Dalles, and John Day pools by tribal fishers  
8       beginning February 1, 2016. Modifications are consistent with action taken January 27,  
9       2016 by the Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife, in cooperation  
10      with the Columbia River Treaty Tribes, at a meeting of the Columbia River Compact.

11  
12      **4.) 635-023-0095**

13      **Bonneville Pool White Sturgeon Recreational Fishery Closes February 8, 2016**

14      Adopted January 27, 2016: effective February 8, 2016 through August 5, 2016.

15      This amended rule closes the recreational white sturgeon retention fishery in the  
16      Bonneville Pool of the Columbia River beginning 12:01 a.m. Monday, February 8, 2016.  
17      Catch-and-release sturgeon angling will still be allowed except in the area from The  
18      Dalles Dam downstream 1.8 miles to a line from the east (upstream) dock at the Port of  
19      The Dalles boat ramp straight across to a marker on the Washington shore during the  
20      period from May 1 through July 31, 2016. Revisions are consistent with action taken  
21      January 27, 2016 by the Departments of Fish and Wildlife for the States of Oregon and  
22      Washington at a meeting of the Columbia River Compact.

23  
24      **5.) 635-042-0145, 635-042-0160, 635-042-0170 and 635-042-0180**

25      **2016 Commercial Winter, spring, and Summer Fisheries for Columbia River Select**  
26      **Areas**

27      Adopted January 27, 2016: effective February 8, 2016 through July 31, 2016.

28      These amended rules set seasons, area boundaries, gear regulations and  
29      allowable sales for winter, spring, and summer commercial fisheries in the Columbia  
30      River Select Areas. Rule revisions are consistent with action taken January 27, 2016 by  
31      the Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife at a meeting of the  
32      Columbia River Compact.

33  
34      **6.) 635-023-0125**

35      **Columbia River Recreational Seasons for Salmon, Steelhead and Shad Set**

36      Adopted January 27, 2016: effective March 1, 2016 through June 15, 2016.

37      This amended rule sets regulations for Columbia River recreational spring  
38      Chinook, steelhead and shad seasons with descriptions of areas, dates, and bag limits  
39      for harvest of adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, adipose fin-clipped steelhead and  
40      shad. Revisions are consistent with action taken January 27, 2016 by the Oregon and  
41      Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife in a meeting of the Columbia River  
42      Compact.

43  
44      **7.) 635-041-0065**

45      **Treaty Indian Winter Commercial Gill Net Fisheries in Zone 6 of the Columbia River**  
46      **Extended**

47      Adopted February 11, 2016; effective February 12, 2016 through March 31, 2016.

1 This amended rule extends the ongoing Columbia River Treaty Indian commercial  
2 gill net fisheries in The Dalles and John Day pools, previously set to end at 6:00 p.m.  
3 Saturday, February 13. These fisheries are now set to run through 6:00 p.m. Monday,  
4 February 22, 2016. Modifications are consistent with action taken February 11, 2016 by  
5 the Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife, in cooperation with the  
6 Columbia River Treaty Tribes, at a meeting of the Columbia River Compact.

7  
8 *Action:*

9 Commissioner Webber moved to ratify the six temporary rules on the tan agenda and  
10 365-041-0065 temporary rule adopted yesterday. Wolley seconded the motion, and the  
11 motion carried unanimously.

12  
13 **Exhibit A: COMMISSION MINUTES**

14 *The Commission approve the draft August 7, 2015 Commission minutes.*

15 *The draft minutes are located in the commission material and can be viewed at*  
16 [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/02\\_february/index.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/02_february/index.asp)

17  
18 *Action:*

19 Commissioner Akenson moved to approve the August 7, 2015 Commission meeting  
20 minutes. Commissioner Webber seconded the motion and the motion was carried  
21 unanimously.

22  
23 **Exhibit B: WILDLIFE RESEARCH UPDATE**

24 *The Commission was provided an informational briefing on agency wildlife research*  
25 *projects.*

26 *Staff: DeWaine Jackson, Wildlife Research Project Leader;*  
27 *Darren Clark, Wildlife Research Project Leader*

28  
29 *Staff Presentation:*

30 DeWaine Jackson and Darren Clark provided a presentation regarding the research that  
31 the department has been conducting on a variety of big game wildlife species for  
32 decades. Information from these studies has helped shape the agency management  
33 programs, collected biological population's parameters for many of the big game  
34 species, and provide scientifically valid data for creating agency policy. Current  
35 research involves black-tail deer and mule deer, elk, cougar, and wolves.

36  
37 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*  
38 [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/02\\_february/index.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/02_february/index.asp)

39  
40 *No public testimony*

41  
42 *Discussion:*

43 Commissioner Akenson; questions were directed at the South Central Mule Deer Study  
44 area. Sara Gregory presented work at TWS that showed that juniper removal to benefit  
45 sage-grouse is detrimental to deer winter range. The Commissioner asked to see a  
46 modeling that would be the optimum for deer relative to the changes being made to

1 benefit sage-grouse and how those two can be combined to minimize the effect on mule  
2 deer winter range?

3  
4 Commissioner Akenson asked if the Commission can be provided an update on the  
5 research programs every year or every other year.

6  
7 Commissioner Webber requested to visit the Starkey Experimental Forest as a tour item  
8 in October while in LA Grande.

9  
10 ODFW Research Thesis, abstract and publications can be viewed at  
11 <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife> (ODFW Wildlife Division Hot Topics).

12  
13 *Action:* Informational Briefing only

14  
15 **Exhibit C: COQUILLE VALLEY WILDLIFE AREA PLAN INFORMATIONAL**  
16 **BRIEFING**

17 *The Commission was provided an informational briefing on the draft Coquille Valley*  
18 *Wildlife Area management plan.*

19 *Staff: Tim Walters, Umpqua Watershed District Manager;*  
20 *Stuart Love, Charleston District Wildlife Biologist*

21  
22 *Staff Presentation:*

23 *Stuart Love provided the Commission with a presentation Coquille Valley Wildlife Area*  
24 *Management Plan. The presentations provided information information on the*  
25 *background, public review process, key public issues, and draft goals and objectives.*

26 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*  
27 *[http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/02\\_february/index.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/02_february/index.asp)*

28

Public testimony	
Fred Messerle; land owner, Chairman Beaver Slough Drainage District	<p>The Beaver Slough Drainage District has had a good partnership with ODFW. ODFW are stewards of the land, meeting objectives, complement local staff Tim Walters, Stuart Love, and Mike Grey for the good, professional working relationship they have had.</p> <p>This really takes on Working landscapes concept, important to be able to move project forward.</p> <p>There is three phases of work ahead- time line: tide gate at river this summer 2016, and dirt work in 2017. 2018 plan out winter lake track.</p> <p>The drainage district is in support of the management plan.</p>

29

30 *Action:* Informational Briefing only

31

1 Chair Finley asked everyone to participate in a moment of silence to honor fallen Officer  
2 Jason Gooding from Seaside that was killed in the line of duty.

3  
4 **Exhibit D: PACIFIC SALMON TREATY INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING**

5 *The Commission will be briefed on the history, structure, and function of the Pacific*  
6 *Salmon Treaty and its importance to salmon management*

7 *Staff: Chris Kern, Fish Division Deputy Administrator*

8  
9 *Staff Presentation:*

10 *Chris Kern provided the Commission a presentation on the Pacific Salmon Treaty. This*  
11 *presentation gave a summary of information on the purpose, history, structure and*  
12 *operation, effects on Oregon, and the future of the Pacific Salmon Treaty.*

13 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*

14 [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/02\\_february/index.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/02_february/index.asp)

15  
16 No public testimony

---

17 *Action:* Informational Briefing only

18  
19 **Exhibit E: LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER STURGEON POPULATION STATUS**  
20 **UPDATE**

21 *The Commission will be briefed on the on the results of the 2015 stock assessment and*  
22 *current population status of the lower Columbia and Willamette river White Sturgeon.*

23 *Staff: Chris Kern, Deputy Fish Division Administrator;*

24 *Tucker Jones, Ocean Salmon and Columbia River Program Manager*

25  
26 *Staff Presentation:*

27 Tucker Jones presentation provided the Commission with information to the Lower  
28 Columbia River sturgeon population status. The presentation included an overview of  
29 long-term population metrics; 2015 stock assessment results and current population  
30 status; and the status of lower Columbia River white sturgeon fisheries.

31 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*

32 [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/02\\_february/index.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/02_february/index.asp)

33  
public testimony

Rob Bignall, Northwest Guide Association	Support continued strategy of catch and release sport fishing for sturgeon. Since 2014 this management of practice non retention has been a positive action in recovering fish in this river. There is low mortality rate in this catch and release fishery. The loss in economic value surrounding the loss of this this fishery would be devastating if the catch and release opportunity was lost. We are learning how to market this fishery by promoting it with the summer run Chinook. If we are ever to return to a retention fishery Northwest Guides and outfitters would like to include at the table.
---	--

<p>Bob Rees, Northwest Steelheader, Northwest Guides and Anglers Association</p>	<p>Has concern about the direction that Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission took in directing Washington Fish and Wildlife to enter into discussion with Oregon to close the catch and release fisheries.</p> <p>Happy with the direction Director Melcher in recognizing sturgeon as a growth industry, calling out the economic and potential of this fishery.</p>
--	--

- 1 Discussion:  
2 Commissioner Buckmaster would be interested in seeing with green sturgeons, how are  
3 they doing in our river. This does not need to be provided in a report, less formal would  
4 satisfy his request.  
5  
6 Chair Finley– we will express to Washington that the Oregon Fish and Wildlife  
7 Commission is satisfied with the action plane we are currently on, we will continue to  
8 monitor this species and adjust if it becomes necessary.  
9  
10 *Action:* Informational Briefing only  
11  
12 **THE BUSINESS**  
13  
14 Chair Michael Finley adjourned the meeting at 3:08 p.m.  
15