

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

The Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan (Plan) and its associated technical rules were adopted by the Commission in December, 2005. Plan development resulted from an extensive public involvement process including Commission-sponsored workshops, multiple town hall meetings across the state, a 14-member advisory committee, and many written and verbal comments from the general public. The Plan contains objectives and strategies that were designed to meet the requirements of both the Oregon Endangered Species Act and the Oregon Wildlife Policy. The Plan calls for Commission evaluation every five years, similar to other conservation plans, and the first review occurred in 2010. The plan acknowledges that any formal evaluation of the plan could result in a decision by the Commission to enter into rulemaking and amend the plan. In 2013, the Plan and its associated technical rules were again modified as a result of lawsuit and subsequent settlement agreement.

No resident wolves were known to occur in the state at the time of 2005 adoption of the original Plan. However, through natural dispersal wolves established in Oregon in 2008 and increased in both distribution and abundance during all years since that time. At the end of 2015 the minimum known population had grown to 110 wolves in 12 packs, and included 11 breeding pairs. Also in 2015, as required by the Plan, staff conducted an analysis of the biological status of the population. As a result of this analysis, the Commission delisted wolves from the List of Oregon Endangered Species in November, 2015. With the newly established legal status of wolves, the Department initiated the Plan evaluation process in March of 2016.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

On March 18, 2016 the Wolf Plan review began when Commission invited and heard testimony from two panels of stakeholders representing four wolf advocacy groups, two hunter organizations, and two landowner/livestock producer groups. Since that Commission meeting, the department held four meetings with stakeholder group representatives to further discuss input to the Wolf Plan.

To date, staff has had discussions with the following stakeholder groups, tribes, state and federal agencies:

- Center for Biological Diversity
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Endangered Species Coalition
- Hells Canyon Preservation Council
- Nez Perce Tribe
- Northwest Ecosystems
- Oregon Cattleman's Association
- Oregon Department of Agriculture

- Oregon Farm Bureau
- Oregon Hunters Association
- Oregon Wild
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Traditional Archers of Oregon
- United States Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services

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ANALYSIS

At this stage of the review process, staff has focused primarily on the significant policy issues from questions by stakeholders, the public and staff. Some of the proposed revisions to the current Plan are categorized as general updates, while other proposed revisions are more substantive in nature and are included in this exhibit (Attachment 2) as significant policy issues for discussion by the Commission.

**STAFF
RECOMMENDATION**

Informational only. No action requested at this time.

DRAFT MOTION	No action requested at this time.
	N/A
EFFECTIVE DATE	