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## Fish and Game Commission



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### WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Committee Co-Chairs: Commissioner Kellogg (present) and Commissioner Baylis (present)

**Staff Meeting Summary**  
**September 17, 2014, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
**Department of Consumer Affairs – Hearing Room**  
**1747 Market Blvd., Sacramento, California**

Following is a summary of the subject meeting as prepared by staff.

#### 1. INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m. by Commissioner Baylis, who introduced Commissioner Kellogg, Fish and Game Commission (Commission) staff, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) staff.

##### *Commission Staff*

Sonke Mastrup	Executive Director
Mary Brittain	Administrative Assistant
Caren Woodson	Analyst

##### *Department Staff*

Chuck Bonham	Director
Dan Yparraguirre	Deputy Director, Wildlife and Fisheries Division
Mike Carion	Deputy Director and Chief, Law Enforcement Division
Stafford Lehr	Chief, Fisheries Branch
Eric Loft	Chief, Wildlife Branch
Craig Martz	Manager, Regulations Unit
Craig Stowers	Program Manager, Wildlife Branch

Executive Director Mastrup outlined the procedures for the meeting, noting that the Committee is a non-decision making body which provides recommendations to the full Commission on non-marine items, and, reminded the participants that while the meeting was not live streamed via the Internet, it was being audio-recorded for posting to the website with a staff summary. By direction of the co-chairs, agenda items were called out of order to accommodate the travel arrangements for several speakers, but are listed in the order on the agenda in this summary.

2. DISCUSSION OF IDEAS RELATED TO FALCONRY CLEAN-UP REGULATIONS  
(SECTION 670, TITLE 14, CCR)

Eric Loft reviewed a list of clean-up issues prepared by Department and Commission staff. No public comments were offered and after brief discussion between the co-chairs, the WRC recommended that the Commission authorize staff to work with the Department to prepare a rulemaking limited to clean-up of falconry regulations consistent with the list of items presented and discussed.

3. DISCUSSION OF IDEAS RELATED TO POSSIBLE AMENDMENT OF MAMMAL  
HUNTING 2015 REGULATIONS  
(SECTIONS 360, 361, 362, 363, AND 364, TITLE 14, CCR)

Craig Stowers summarized proposed changes to mammal hunting regulations for the 2015-16 season, other than the anticipated changes to season and bag limits. The most significant change would be mandatory deer tag reporting; it was clarified during public discussion that DFW's mandatory tag reporting program asks hunters a series of questions which helps to inform population and hunting data beyond the number of reported take. WRC recommended that the Commission authorize staff to work with the Department to prepare a rulemaking for 2015-16 mammal hunting regulations consistent with what has been presented and discussed today.

4. DISCUSSION OF IDEAS RELATED TO POSSIBLE AMENDMENT OF BOBCAT  
PROTECTION MANDATE (AB 1213)

Sonke Mastrup provided an overview of the current options, including a new proposal to establish a 0.25 mile buffer zone around affected areas and require trappers to possess functioning GPS devices. Mike Carion indicated that GPS was difficult to enforce. He further underscored that the Law Enforcement Division's preference was for a regulation that establishes a 10 foot buffer from a posted sign, fenced area, road, or other easily identifiable and definable landmark.

After some public discussion, WRC recommended that the Commission authorize staff to work with the Department to prepare a rulemaking to implement the Bobcat Protection Act mandate by identifying and permitting trapping in high value counties, establishing a buffer around each affected area in the high value areas using well-defined landmarks or roads, and banning trapping in the balance of the state.

5. DISCUSSION OF IDEAS RELATED TO LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENT TO IMPLEMENT  
NON-LEAD AMMUNITION REQUIREMENTS (AB 711)

Department staff provided a final update detailing its past and future outreach efforts across the state, confirmed that staff would be prepared to draft regulations in conformance with statutory deadlines, and outlined a plan for phasing in the use of non-lead ammunition.

A presentation was made by Scott Scherbinski, Wildlife Health Outreach Coordinator for the National Park Service and Ben Smith, Non-lead Outreach Coordinator for the Institute for Wildlife Studies.

A presentation was made by Rob Southwick, President of Southwick Associates, with Larry Keane, Senior Vice President and General Counsel for the National Shooting Sports Foundation available to answer questions.

After public discussion, WRC recommended that the Commission authorize staff to work with the Department to prepare a rulemaking to phase in the required use of non-lead ammunition for take of all wildlife by 2019. There are three parts to the proposed phase-in: (1) In 2015, non-lead will be required for all state wildlife areas and ecological reserves, and for take of bighorn sheep; (2) in 2016, non-lead will be required for larger game birds, small game mammals (by shotgun), and nongame/depredation/furbearers (by shotgun); and (3) in 2019, nonlead will be required for take of all big game, remaining game birds, small game mammals (by rifle/handgun), nongame/depredation/furbearers (by rifle/handgun), and all muzzle loaders.

6. UPDATE AND SUGGESTIONS OF POSSIBLE CHANGES TO PREDATOR MANAGEMENT POLICIES/REGULATIONS, STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY ISSUES (SECTIONS 472, 465.5, AND 460, TITLE 14, CCR)

Sonke Mastrup announced that with time running short, discussion on this item would have to be cut short and indicated that staff would make room for further deliberation on predator management issues at the January WRC meeting.

A. DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION

Eric Loft provided a brief update on the Department's initial ideas about predator conservation and management planning which, in part, is related to the ongoing predator management discussion and fulfills a request made by Commissioner Baylis at the August business meeting.

B. DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Sonke Mastrup identified pending issues for the January WRC meeting and urged Commissioners to consider full-day meetings to accommodate the time needed to properly vet and make recommendations on wildlife items before the Commission.

8. PUBLIC FORUM

Public testimony was invited for items not listed on the agenda; none were offered.

The Wildlife Resources Committee meeting adjourned at 12:11 p.m.