

Fish and Game Commission Meeting Binder



April 26, 2016

Predator Policy Workgroup

Meeting

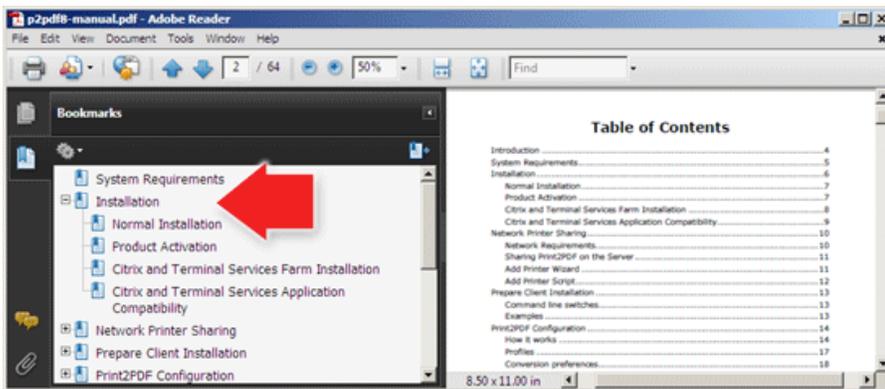
Sacramento

EASY GUIDE TO THE BINDER

1. Download and open the binder document using your Adobe Acrobat program/application.
2. Immediately click/tap on the “bookmark symbol” located near the top left-hand corner.



3. A bookmark panel should appear on either the top or the left-hand side of the screen. To make adjustments, simply use the Page Display option in the View tab. If done correctly, you should see something like:



4. We suggest leaving open the bookmark panel to help you move efficiently among the staff summaries and supporting documents included in the binder. It's helpful to think of these bookmarks as a table of contents which allows you to go to specific points in the binder without having to scroll through hundreds of pages.
5. Resize the bars by placing the icon in the dark, vertical line located between the text boxes and using a long click/tap to move ←|→ in either direction. You may also adjust the sizing of the documents by adjusting the sizing preferences located on the Page Display icons found in the top toolbar or in the View tab.
6. Upon locating a staff summary for an agenda item that interests you, notice that you can get more information by double-clicking/tapping on any item underlined in blue.
7. Return to the staff summary by simply re-clicking/tapping on the item in the bookmark panel.

OVERVIEW OF FISH AND GAME COMMISSION COMMITTEE WORKGROUP MEETING

- Our goal today is informed discussion to guide future decision making, and, we need your cooperation to ensure a lively and comprehensive dialogue.
- We are operating under Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, but the Workgroup is not a decision making body and only makes recommendations to the Wildlife Resources Committee for its consideration.
- These proceedings may be recorded and posted to our website for reference and archival purposes.
- Items may be heard in any order pursuant to the determination of the Workgroup meeting facilitator.
- In the unlikely event of an emergency, please locate the nearest emergency exits.
- Restrooms are located _____.
- Workgroup meetings operate informally and provide opportunity for everyone to provide comment on agenda items. If you wish to speak on an agenda item, please follow these guidelines:
 1. Raise your hand and wait to be recognized by the Workgroup meeting facilitator.
 2. Provide your name, affiliation (if any), and the number of people you represent.
 3. Time is limited; please keep your comments precise to give others time to speak.
 4. If several speakers have the same concerns, please appoint a group spokesperson.
 5. If you would like to present handouts or written materials to the Workgroup, please provide fourteen (14) copies to the designated staff member just prior to speaking.
 6. If speaking during public comment, the subject matter you present should not be related to any item on the current agenda (public comment on agenda items will be taken at the time the Workgroup members discuss that item).

INTRODUCTIONS FOR FISH AND GAME COMMISSION WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMITTEE'S PREDATOR POLICY WORKGROUP

COMMISSION STAFF

Michael Yaun	Acting Executive Director/Legal Counsel
Erin Chappell	Wildlife Advisor
Caren Woodson	Analyst

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

David Bess	Deputy Director and Chief, Law Enforcement Division
Stafford Lehr	Acting Deputy Director, Wildlife and Fisheries Division
Eric Loft	Chief, Wildlife Branch

WORKGROUP MEMBERS

Josh Brones	Mark Hennelly
Noelle Cremers	Dr. Rick Hopkins
Rebecca Dmytryk	Tony Linegar
Jennifer Fearing	Erica Sanko
Bill Gaines	Jean Su

I would also like to acknowledge special guests who are present:
(i.e., key DFW staff, elected officials, tribal chairpersons, other special guests)

Commissioners

Eric Sklar, President
Saint Helena

Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Vice President
McKinleyville

Anthony C. Williams, Member
Huntington Beach

Vacant, Member
Vacant, Member

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

Mike Yaun, Acting Executive Director

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Fish and Game Commission



*Wildlife Heritage and Conservation
Since 1870*

WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMITTEE PREDATOR POLICY WORKGROUP

Members: Josh Brones, Noelle Cremers, Rebecca Dmytryk, Jennifer Fearing, Bill Gaines, Mark Hennelly, Rick Hopkins, Tony Linegar, Erica Sanko, and Jean Su

Meeting Agenda

April 26, 2016, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**University of California Center Sacramento
Conference Room B
1130 K Street
Sacramento, CA 95814**

This meeting may be audio-recorded

Note: All agenda items are informational and/or discussion only. The Workgroup develops recommendations to the Wildlife Resources Committee. The Workgroup does not have authority to make policy or regulatory decisions on behalf of the Commission.

1. Call to order and roll call of workgroup members
2. Develop and approve draft workplan for Wildlife Resources Committee direction
 - (A) Scope
 - (B) Objectives
 - (C) Tasks
 - (D) Timeline
3. Review existing predator policies and regulations
4. Discuss coordination between writing group and reviewers
5. Discuss workgroup structure
6. Public forum for items not on the agenda
The Workgroup may not discuss or take action on any matter raised during this item, except to decide whether to place the matter on a future meeting agenda (pursuant to Sections 11125 and 11125.7(a), Government Code).
7. Adjourn

**FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
2016 MEETING SCHEDULE
www.fgc.ca.gov**

MEETING DATE	COMMISSION MEETING	COMMITTEE MEETING
May 18		Wildlife Resources Department of General Services Ziggurat Building – Auditorium 707 3 rd Street West Sacramento, CA 95605
June 21		Tribal TBD
June 22-23	TBD	
July 21		Marine Resources Petaluma Regional Library 100 Fairgrounds Drive Petaluma, CA 94952
August 24-25	Lake Natoma Inn Hotel & Conference Center 702 Gold Lake Drive Folsom, CA 95630	
September 21		Wildlife Resources Woodland Public Library Leake Center Community Room 250 First Street Woodland, CA 95695
October 18		Tribal TBD
October 19-20	TBD	
November 17		Marine Resources Irvine, CA
December 7-8	Portofino Inn & Suites 3805 Murphy Canyon Road San Diego, CA 92123	

OTHER MEETINGS OF INTEREST

Wildlife Conservation Board

- May 26, Sacramento
- August 30, Sacramento
- November 16, Sacramento

Pacific Fishery Management Council

- June 23-28, Tacoma, WA
- September 15-20, Boise, ID
- November 16-21, Garden Grove, CA

Pacific Flyway Council

- September 2016, TBD

Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

- July 2016, Cody, WY

IMPORTANT MEETING PROCEDURES INFORMATION

Welcome to a meeting of the California Fish and Game Commission's Wildlife Resources Committee Predator Policy Workgroup (Workgroup). The Workgroup is comprised of ten members appointed by the Commission.

The goal of the Workgroup is to allow greater time to investigate predator policy issues in more detail than would otherwise be possible before the Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC). Like the WRC, Workgroup meetings are less formal in nature. As an advisory body of members appointed by the Commission, the Workgroup follows the noticing requirements of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

The Commission's goal is the preservation of our heritage and conservation of our natural resources through informed decision making; Workgroup meetings are vital in developing recommendations to the WRC to help the Commission achieve that goal. In that spirit, we provide the following information to be as effective and efficient toward that end. Welcome, and please let us know if you have any questions.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Persons with disabilities needing reasonable accommodation to participate in public meetings or other Commission activities are invited to contact the Reasonable Accommodation Coordinator at (916) 651-1214. Requests for facility and/or meeting accessibility should be received at least 10 working days prior to the meeting to ensure the request can be accommodated.

SUBMITTING WRITTEN MATERIALS

The public is encouraged to attend Workgroup meetings and engage in the discussion about items on the agenda. The public is also welcome to comment on agenda items in writing. You may submit your written comments by one of the following methods (only one is necessary): **Email to fgc@fgc.ca.gov; deliver to California Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320, Sacramento, CA 95814; or hand-deliver to a Workgroup meeting. *The Commission no longer accepts written comments or requests for regulation changes via facsimile; please submit written comments or requests for regulation changes by email, mail service or in person.***

Written comments received at the Commission office by 5:00 p.m. on April 15, 2016 will be made available to the Workgroup prior to the meeting. Written comments received between 5:00 p.m. on April 15, 2016 and 12 noon on April 22, 2016 will be made available to the Workgroup at the meeting. After April 22, 2016, 14 copies of written comments must be delivered at the meeting; otherwise they will not be made available to the Workgroup until after the meeting.

The Workgroup **will not** consider comments regarding proposed changes to regulations that have been noticed. If you wish to provide comment on a noticed item, please provide your comments during Commission business meetings, via email, or deliver to the Commission office.

NOTE: Materials provided to the Workgroup may be made available to the general public.

SPEAKING AT THE MEETING

Workgroup meetings operate informally and provide opportunity for everyone to comment on agenda items. If you wish to speak on an agenda item, please follow these guidelines:

1. Raise your hand and wait to be recognized by the Workgroup facilitator.
2. Once recognized, please begin by giving your name and affiliation (if any) and the number of people you represent.
3. Time is limited; please keep your comments concise so that everyone has an opportunity to speak.
4. If there are several speakers with the same concerns, please try to appoint a spokesperson and avoid repetitive comments.
5. If you would like to present handouts or written materials to the Workgroup, please provide 14 copies to the designated staff member just prior to speaking.
6. If speaking during public forum, the subject matter you present should not be related to any item on the current agenda (public comment on agenda items will be taken at the time the Workgroup members discuss that item). As a general rule, public forum is an opportunity to bring matters to the attention of the Workgroup, but you may also do so via email or standard mail. At the discretion of the Workgroup, staff may be requested to follow up on the subject you raise.

WORKGROUP STAFF SUMMARY FOR APRIL 26, 2016

2. PREDATOR POLICY WORK PLAN**Today's Item**Information Decision

Develop and approve a draft work plan outlining project scope, objectives, tasks, and timeline for Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC) direction.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| • Discussion of workgroup scope and objectives | Feb 24, 2016; Sacramento |
| • Today develop and approve draft work plan | Apr 26, 2016; Sacramento |
| • Present draft work plan to WRC for direction | May 18, 2016; West Sacramento |

Background

In Feb 2016, the Predator Policy Workgroup (Workgroup) held an initial discussion on the potential scope and objectives for the Workgroup to consider. The scope and potential objectives discussed were based on the *FGC Staff Proposal for the Predator Policy Workgroup* (July 2015) that was adopted by FGC in August 2015. The Workgroup was generally comfortable with the objectives presented and determined that development of a work plan, including a final decision on which predators to include, should be the emphasis of the next Workgroup meeting. The full Feb 2016 Workgroup meeting summary, provided here as Exhibit 1, and audio-recording, are both available on the FGC website (<http://www.fgc.ca.gov/meetings/2016/index.aspx>).

To assist with the development of a draft work plan, FGC staff has prepared a template for the Workgroup to use as a starting point (Exhibit 2). In addition, DFW has prepared a list of California terrestrial predators and furbearers with their recommendations to the WRC on which species to include for consideration during today's discussion on project scope (Exhibit 3).

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation (N/A)****Exhibits**

1. Feb 24, 2016 PPWG meeting summary
2. Staff-prepared draft work plan for Predator Policy Workgroup review, dated April 5, 2016
3. DFW memo regarding Predator Policy Workgroup and Recommended Species for Inclusion, dated March 28, 2016

Workgroup Decision/Recommendation (N/A)

WORKGROUP STAFF SUMMARY FOR APRIL 26, 2016

3. PREDATOR POLICIES AND REGULATIONS**Today's Item**Information Decision

Review existing predator policies and regulations.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- Discussion of workgroup scope and objectives Feb 24, 2016; Sacramento
- **Today's review Apr 26, 2016; Sacramento**

Background

In Feb 2016, the Predator Policy Workgroup (Workgroup) held an initial discussion on the potential scope and objectives for the Workgroup to consider based on the *FGC Staff Proposal for the Predator Policy Workgroup* (July 2015) that was adopted by FGC in August 2015. Review of existing predator policies and regulations was identified as a potential objective. During the discussion, members of the Workgroup expressed broad support for this objective and decided to include it as an agenda topic for today's meeting.

The topic of existing predator policies and regulations was discussed at previous WRC meetings and resulted in the development of two documents: The FGC staff report, *Selection of Existing Predator Polices, Code, and Regulations*, was presented at the July 2013 WRC meeting (<http://www.fgc.ca.gov/meetings/committees/061213existingpredatorpolicieslawsandregulations.pdf>); and the FGC staff chart, *Sections of Title 14 Predator Policies Grouped by Type of Change*, was presented at the July 2014 WRC meeting (http://www.fgc.ca.gov/meetings/2014/jul/Exhibits/5_1_PredatorPolicyChart_Group_20140714.pdf).

Significant Public Comments (N/A)

Recommendation (N/A)

Exhibits (N/A)

Workgroup Decision/Recommendation (N/A)

WORKGROUP STAFF SUMMARY FOR APRIL 26, 2016

4. WRITING GROUP AND REVIEWER COORDINATION**Today's Item****Information** **Decision**

Discuss how the Predator Policy Workgroup will coordinate with reviewers.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- Discussion of roles and responsibilities Feb 24, 2016; Sacramento
- **Today's discussion Apr 26, 2016; Sacramento**

Background

In Dec 2015 FGC appointed 10 members to the Predator Policy Writing Group and deferred consideration of appointments to the proposed Predator Policy Review Group to the Feb 2016 FGC meeting. At the Feb 2016 FGC meeting, the Commission decided not to formally appoint members to a Review Group on the Workgroup, but rather directed the Writing Group to meet and share draft products for review and comment with those individuals who requested to be part of the Review Group, prior to presenting recommendations to the WRC. As the Writing Group is comprised of appointed members to the Predator Policy Workgroup (Workgroup), they are subject to compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act when engaged in Workgroup proceedings. As the reviewers are not appointed to the Workgroup, they are not subject to compliance the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. However, the FGC articulated that the reviewers would still be an active part of the Workgroup process.

An initial discussion on the roles and responsibilities of both the Writing Group and reviewers was held at the Feb 2016 Workgroup meeting. As part of that discussion the topic of coordination between the two was raised. A final decision was not reached but the Workgroup agreed to follow-up at the next meeting to determine a coordination process. Today the Workgroup will continue the discussion on coordination with reviewers.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation (N/A)****Exhibits (N/A)****Workgroup Decision/Recommendation (N/A)**

WORKGROUP STAFF SUMMARY FOR APRIL 26, 2016

5. PREDATOR POLICY WORKGROUP STRUCTURE**Today's Item****Information** **Decision**

Discuss the structure of the Predator Policy Workgroup (Workgroup) including how meetings are structured, roles and responsibilities, coordination, and assignments.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- Discussion of Workgroup structure Feb 24, 2016; Sacramento
- **Today's discussion Apr 26, 2016; Sacramento**

Background

An initial discussion on the overarching structure of the Workgroup was held at the Feb 2016 Workgroup meeting. Topics included meeting structure, roles and responsibilities, coordination, decision-making process, and assignments. A decision was reached on the decision-making process but the Workgroup wanted to continue discussions on the other topics at the next meeting. Today the Workgroup will continue discussion on these topics.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation (N/A)****Exhibits (N/A)****Workgroup Decision/Recommendation (N/A)**

WORKGROUP STAFF SUMMARY FOR APRIL 26, 2016

6. PUBLIC FORUM**Today's Item****Information** **Decision**

Receive public comments for items not on the agenda.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions (N/A)**Background**

The Workgroup generally receives two types of correspondence or comment under public forum: requests for the Workgroup to consider new topics; and informational items. Requests for regulatory change need to be redirected to the full Commission and submitted on the required petition form, FGC 1, titled "Petition to the California Fish and Game Commission for Regulation Change" (Section 662, Title 14, CCR).

The Workgroup may not discuss or take action on any matter raised during this item, except to decide whether to place the matter on a future meeting agenda (pursuant to Sections 11125 and 11125.7(a), Government Code).

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation (N/A)****Exhibits (N/A)****Workgroup Decision/Recommendation (N/A)**

Commissioners

Eric Sklar, President
Saint Helena

Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Vice President
McKinleyville

Anthony C. Williams, Member
Huntington Beach

Vacant, Member
Vacant, Member

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

Fish and Game Commission



*Wildlife Heritage and Conservation
Since 1870*

Mike Yaun, Acting Executive Director

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WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMITTEE PREDATOR POLICY WORKGROUP

**Meeting Summary
February 24, 2016**

**Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building
914 Capitol Mall, Room 500, Sacramento**

Following is a summary of the meeting prepared by staff.

1. **Call to order and roll call of workgroup members**

Meeting was called to order by Wildlife Advisor Erin Chappell who introduced Fish and Game Commission (FGC) staff and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) staff. Self-introductions were made by the Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC)'s Predator Policy Writing Group members.

Commission Staff

Michael Yaun	Acting Executive Director
Erin Chappell	Wildlife Advisor
Caren Woodson	Analyst

CDFW Staff

Stafford Lehr	Acting Deputy Director, Wildlife and Fisheries Division
David Bess	Chief, Law Enforcement Division
Eric Loft	Chief, Wildlife Branch

Writing Group Members

Josh Brones	Mark Hennelly
Noelle Cremer	Dr. Rick Hopkins
Rebecca Dmytryk	Tony Linegar
Jennifer Fearing	Erica Sanko
Bill Gaines	Jean Su

Erin Chappell outlined the procedures for the meeting and let participants know that the meeting was being audio-recorded for posting to the website with a staff summary.

2. **Overview of Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act**

Acting Executive Director Michael Yaun provided an overview of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Bagley-Keene) with an emphasis on how it applies to the Predator Policy Writing Group (Writing Group) members and the Predator Policy Workgroup (Workgroup) meetings. As an advisory body of members appointed by FGC, the Writing Group is subject to Bagley-Keene requirements.

3. **Establish basic operating rules, procedures, and guiding principles**

Erin Chappell presented the following meeting ground rules for consideration by the Writing Group.

- Share the airtime
- Limit sidebars
- Critique ideas, not people
- Be prepared
- Discuss topics openly rather than in isolation
- Share your experience/perspective, not others
- Avoid surprises
- Quiet cell phones

Writing Group members proposed to add the following meeting ground rules:

- (Josh Brones) Be committed to the process and engaged with each other
- (Rebecca Dmytryk) Table stalemate decisions for a later time
- (Jennifer Fearing) Take short breaks often to provide members opportunity to sidebar
- **SUMMARY:** There was agreement from the Writing Group to use the ground rules presented along with the added items.

Erin Chappell presented the following Workgroup guiding principles for consideration by the Writing Group.

- Act in good faith
- Be respectful
- Seek common ground
- Think outside the box
- Be flexible/open-minded
- Common courtesy
- Be accountable
- **SUMMARY:** There was agreement from the Writing Group to use the guiding principles presented.

Erin Chappell led a group discussion about meeting procedures.

- Meeting Structure
 - Participation
 - Quorum is necessary; for this Workgroup six Writing Group members constitute a quorum
 - Alternates (needed or not?)
 - (Jennifer Fearing, Mark Hennelly) Depends on when and how often meetings are held.
 - (Noelle Cremers, Billl Gaines) Alternates hard to provide meaningful input; if used, alternates should attend every meeting to keep up to speed.
 - (Tony Linegar) Maybe someone from the review group can be appointed.
 - **DECISION: TABLED for discussion under Agenda Item 5 (future meeting dates and locations).**
 - Communication (pre- and post-meeting)
 - Audio recording and meeting summaries will be posted to FGC website.
 - Meeting agendas and materials will be posted to FGC website per Bagley-Keene.
 - WRC e-listserv will be used for notifications; please sign up!!
 - (Jean Su) Are teleconferences an option?
 - It is an option, but there are concerns from FGC staff re: logistics and public participation.
 - Materials
 - Documents/materials should flow through Erin, for posting to FGC website.
- Roles and Responsibilities – Erin Chappell presented the following suggestions based on roles identified in the FGC Staff Proposal for the Predator Policy Workgroup (July 2015) that was adopted by the FGC Commission in August 2015.
 - Writing Group – Draft concepts and recommendations
 - (Linegar) Are we discussing specific critters or more general?
 - That will need to be determined by the group when drafting the workgroup scope.
 - Reviewers – Provide constructive input and feedback
 - DFW – Provide input on the science, management practices, enforcement
 - FGC – Provide facilitation, meeting support, and regulatory guidance

- Coordination
 - Between Workgroup and WRC – Recommendations approved by Workgroup will move to WRC for consideration
 - Between Writing Group and Reviewers
 - FGC direction from February 2016 meeting: Once something is drafted it goes to reviewers for comments and returns to Writing Group for discussion/consideration.
 - **FOLLOW-UP:** Group agreed to follow up at next meeting to make a determination of process for reviewers
 - (Sanko) Will substantive materials for review be sent to reviewers directly or via posts to website?
 - Needs some clarification; staff preference is to utilize website and notify reviewers materials are available.
 - The reviewers are NOT a formally appointed group (yet), therefore not subject to Bagley-Keene.
 - (Fearing) Comfortable with the non-formal approach of reviewers, and noted it permits greater review and feedback.
- Decision-Making Process
 - Consensus vs. Majority (6/10) vs. Super-Majority (7/10)
 - (Hennelly) Prefer consensus-based approach, when can't agree then no change. Comfortable with super-majority for policy and regulatory recommendations.
 - (Fearing) Majority vote difficult with make-up of Writing Group; prefer moving consensus based issues and majority/minority opinions. Consensus means that you can live with it.
 - (Brones) Strive for consensus, but move forward regulatory and statutory recommendations from a super-majority if consensus not achieved.
 - Compromise could be that our documents include dissenting opinions.
 - (Su) FGC emphasized consensus and working together, not a voting group, this is an advisory body. Minority opinions are important.
 - **DECISION: Strive for decision making under consensus standard; if consensus not possible, then move recommendation by simple majority and include minority recommendations.**
- Assignments – Erin Chappell proposed assigning individuals to the following responsibilities:
 - Document Manager

- Chapter/Policy/Recommendation Point-person
- Review Coordinator (compile reviewer comments for writing group)
- Meeting Scribe
- Meeting Summaries
- **SUMMARY:** Will continue discussion about possible assignments at future meeting

4. **Draft workgroup scope and objectives for WRC direction**

Erin Chappell led a group discussion on workgroup scope and objectives. She presented the following based on the FGC Staff Proposal for the Predator Policy Workgroup (July 2015) that was adopted by the FGC Commission in August 2015.

- Provide input, develop ideas, and prepare *recommendations* concerning predator management policy and regulation in California.
- Provide draft *recommendations* to WRC by September 21, 2016.
 - Option offered to extend timeline to May 2017 WRC meeting
- **DECISION (Approved by consensus): Provide draft recommendation to WRC by May 2017.**

Erin Chappell provided the following list of predators for Workgroup consideration.

- Coyote, mountain lion, bear, wolf, bobcat, wolverine, badger, ring-tail cat, fox, otter, beaver, muskrat, marten, fisher, mink, weasel, raccoon, and skunk
- Opossum and feral pig were discussed as possible additions to this list.
- (Rebecca Dmytryk) Coyote, mountain lion, bear, wolf. Fear and loss of livestock is paramount; should stick to carnivores.
- (Jennifer Fearing) Like limitation to mammals; game, furbearer, or nongame. Triage next steps (fully unmanaged vs some management), maybe prioritize based on management. Game and fully protected fall lower on the list of priorities for this group, nongame and furbearers are higher priority.
- (Josh Brones) More appropriate to approach from the risk the critters present not the academic taxonomy.
- (Rick Hopkins) Should be restricted to scientific definition of predators, but if we broaden then we need to be clear. Pigs are not predators. Good with waiting; no strong opinion either way. Too much on our plates means we won't accomplish much.
- (Eric Loft) Tend to agree with Fearing, ought to be focused on those species where "take" is permitted. Not recommended for the group to discuss black bear, wolves, pigs, or mountain lions as there are already strong management and conservation plans underway.

- (Noelle Cremers) Better to be inclusive, agree with Dr. Loft. Do not see this groups as being a productive way to address wild pig.
- (Rick Hopkins) Did DFW have a list of critters we should work from?
- (Eric Loft) DFW has a list and willing to share it; maybe you don't deal with fully protected or managed species.
- (Bill Gaines) Recommend tabling this decision until next/future meeting.
- (Stafford Lehr) Recommend postponing beaver discussion because requires local governments, and DFW is currently working on this matter.
- (Mark Hennelly) Suggested this be first item for discussion at next meeting. Gives us some time to give consideration to the comments and input from public.
- **SUMMARY:** Be more inclusive, not less.
- **DECISION:** TABLE TO NEXT MEETING, TOP OF THE AGENDA. In the meantime send ideas, comments or feedback to Erin Chappell for preparation for future meetings.

Erin Chappell presented the following suggestions for workplan objectives based on objectives identified in the FGC Staff Proposal for the Predator Policy Workgroup (July 2015) that was adopted by the FGC Commission in August 2015.

- Review existing policy, regulatory concepts
 - (Jennifer Fearing) Like this order, suggest that we walk through these current regulations and policies.
 - (Rebecca Dmytryk) Would prefer to look at policy first, then move to regulation. To make progress we need to converse with each other and DFW. Clearer language for existing regulation.
 - (Josh Brones) Agree with Fearing, we start from a universal foundation of understanding, dispassionate presentation from DFW about ecological implications to inform Workgroup discussion.
 - (Bill Gaines) Important that science helps guide recommendations, science should be foundation. Suggest that DFW be present and we look to them for guidance, etc.
- Develop predator management policy
 - (Mark Hennelly) Policy for FGC or DFW?
 - (FGC Staff) DFW is supposed to abide by FGC policy.
- Develop best management guidelines
 - (Noelle Cremers) Need more time to think through contemplation of best management guidelines.
- Develop regulatory proposals
 - (Linegar) Drafting or making recommendations for regulations?
 - (FGC Staff) The goal was for a recommendation for regulation (to develop the idea, not prepare the regulation).

- Identify needed statutory changes (*added based on group discussion*)
- **SUMMARY:**
 - Group would like to give more thought to best management guidelines objective, but generally comfortable with moving forward on objectives identified here.
 - Development of this work plan to be the emphasis of our next meeting for consideration at May 2016 WRC meeting.

5. **Select future meeting dates and locations**

Erin Chappell presented some tentative meeting dates between already scheduled FGC and WRC meetings, accounting for staff availability for FGC and WRC meeting preparations. She led a group discussion about possible meeting dates and locations.

- **DECISION:** Next meeting is **Tuesday, April 26, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.** Location TBD (by FGC staff) in greater Sacramento area
- (Bill Gaines) Would like to see consideration of possibility moving these meetings around.
- (Jennifer Fearing) Suggest option of conducting meetings day before or after FGC meetings, if want to move them around
- (Noelle Cremers) Would be helpful to know what sort of support from DFW and FGC will be available if we travel
- (FGC Staff) No money available for Writing Group member's travel expenses

Erin Chappell led a group discussion about meeting frequency.

- **SUMMARY:** Group will strive to meet once or twice between each WRC meeting.

Group resumed discussion about the use of alternates (Note: Discussion carried forward from agenda item 3).

- (Tony Linegar) He at some point will need an alternate due to inevitable conflicts with other boards he serves on.
- (Mark Hennelly) Noted that choosing meeting dates beforehand should reduce the need for alternates. However, if chose to use alternates, then those persons should attend these meetings.
- (Josh Brones) Frequency is not prohibitive; he is less inclined to endorse alternates except in rarest of circumstances to protect continuity.
- (Jennifer Fearing) I think there is a consensus alternates are not needed.
- **Summary:** Effort will be made to select meeting dates that work for all the members to avoid need for alternates.
- **DECISION:** Group will not use alternates.

Group held a discussion about agenda topics for the next meeting.

- **DECISION:** Agenda topics to include the following:
 - Prepare a workplan for WRC consideration at May 2016 meeting
 - Scope (which species, defining scope of predators)
 - Objectives
 - Tasks
 - Timeline
 - Review of existing policies and regulation
 - Discuss coordination between Writing Group and reviewers
 - Discuss Workgroup meeting structure (role and responsibilities)

6. **Public forum for items not on the agenda**

No public comments were received.

7. **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Predator Policy Workgroup
****DRAFT** Work Plan**
Prepared by Commission Staff for Workgroup Review

Purpose: Provide input, develop ideas, and prepare *recommendations* concerning predator management policy and regulations in California

Project Scope:

- Why is this needed? What management issue(s) are not adequately addressed under existing policies and regulations?
- What species should be covered?
 - Predators for consideration – bear (game), coyote (nongame), bobcat (nongame), weasel (nongame), skunk (nongame), opossum (nongame), badger (fur-bearing), beaver (fur-bearing), muskrat (fur-bearing), mink (fur-bearing), raccoon (fur-bearing), fox (fur-bearing, some protected), mountain lion (protected), wolf (protected), wolverine (protected), ring-tailed cat (protected), otter (protected), marten (protected), fisher (protected)
 - Limit to unmanaged, unprotected, non-game and furbearers – coyote, badger, gray fox, beaver, muskrat, mink, weasel, raccoon, skunk, opossum
 - Limit to DFW recommendations – badger, gray fox, mink, raccoon, bobcat, coyote, short-tailed weasel, and long-tailed weasel
 - Use strict scientific definition
- What level(s) of governance should this project address?
 - Fish and Game Commission (Commission) policy
 - California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14
 - State statutes (Fish and Game Code)
 - *Local government laws/ordinances*

Objectives/Tasks:

- **Objective 1: Review existing predator policy and regulations**
 - Task 1: Compile summary of relevant, existing California predator management policies and regulations (use Commission summary as basis)
 - Task 2: Research and compile predator management policies and regulations used in other states or countries/provinces
 - Task 3: Identify what predator management issue(s) are not adequately addressed under existing policies regulations

- **Objective 2: Develop proposed Commission Predator Management Policy**
 - Task 1: Based on findings from Objective 1, identify key elements to include in a draft predator management policy
 - Task 2: Develop draft policy for review and full discussion by Predator Policy Workgroup (PPWG)
 - Task 3: Prepare final draft policy for review and full discussion by Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC)
 - Task 4: Prepare final recommended policy for consideration and possible recommendation by the WRC to the Commission

- **Objective 3: Develop CCR Title 14 regulatory proposals**
 - Task 1: Based on findings from Objective 1, identify existing regulations in need of revision
 - Task 2: Based on findings from Objective 1, identify issues that would need to be addressed through new regulations
 - Task 3: Draft proposed revisions to language in existing regulations identified under Task 1 for review and full discussion by PPWG
 - Task 4: Draft proposal for new regulations identified under Task 2 for review and full discussion by PPWG
 - Task 5: Review and revise Tasks 3 and 4 for consistency with draft policy
 - Task 6: Based on outcomes from Task 5, develop draft regulatory proposal for review and full discussion by WRC
 - Task 7: Prepare final regulatory proposal for consideration and possible recommendation by the WRC to the Commission

- **Objective 4: Prepare summary of proposed statutory changes (Fish & Game Code)**
 - Task 1: Compile summary of existing, relevant statutes
 - Task 2: Evaluate statutes identified in Task 1 for consistency with draft policy and regulatory proposals (Objectives 2 and 3)
 - Task 3: Identify where statutory changes are needed for alignment with draft policy and regulatory proposals
 - Task 4: Draft summary of proposed statutory changes for review and discussion by PPWG
 - Task 5: Based on input from PPWG in Task 4, revise summary and present to WRC for review and discussion
 - Task 6: Prepare final summary for consideration and possible recommendation by the WRC to the Commission

- **Objective 5: Identify predator management issues for redress by local government** – *added for consideration*
 - Task 1: As identified through discussions under Objectives 2, 3, and 4 compile summary of predator management issues that could be effectively addressed at the local level
 - Task 2: Refine summary based on review and full discussion by PPWG
 - Task 3: Revise summary and present to WRC for review and discussion
 - Task 4: Prepare final summary for consideration and possible recommendation by the WRC to the Commission
- **Objective 6: Identify best management practices**
 - Task 1: Research and compile list of best management practices used for predator management in rural communities
 - Task 2: Research and compile list of best management practices used for predator management in urban communities
 - Task 3: Research and compile list of best management practices used for predator management in wildlands
 - Task 4: Draft summary of findings from Tasks 1-3 for review and discussion by PPWG
 - Task 5: Revise summary and present to WRC for review and discussion
 - Task 6: Prepare final summary for and possible recommendation by the WRC to the Commission

Timeline: Completion date May 2017

- Work Plan
 - Apr 2016 – prepare draft work plan
 - May 2016 – present to WRC for consideration
 - Jun 2016 – WRC recommends draft work plan to Commission for approval
- Objective 1: Review existing predator management policies and regulations
 - Task 1: Jun 2016
 - Task 2: Jun 2016
 - Task 3: Jul 2016
- Objective 2: Develop draft Commission predator management policy
 - Task 1: Jul 2016
 - Task 2: Jul-Aug 2016
 - Task 3: Aug-Sep 2016 (WRC)
 - Task 4: May-Jun 2017 (Commission)
- Objective 3: Develop draft CCR Title 14 regulatory proposals
 - Task 1: Aug 2016
 - Task 2: Aug 2016
 - Task 3: Sep -Nov 2016 (PPWG)

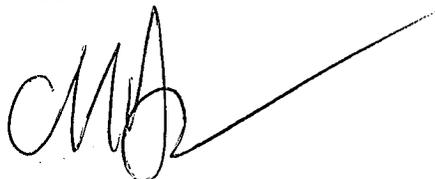
- Task 4: Sep-Nov 2016 (PPWG)
- Task 5: Nov 2016
- Task 6: Nov 2016-Jan 2017 (WRC)
- Task 7: May-Jun 2017 (Commission)
- Objective 4: Prepare summary of proposed statutory change recommendations
 - Task 1: Oct-Nov 2016
 - Task 2: Dec 2016-Jan 2017
 - Task 3: Jan-Feb 2017
 - Task 3: Feb-Apr 2017 (PPWG)
 - Task 5: Apr-May 2017 (WRC)
 - Task 6: May-Jun 2017 (Commission)
- Objective 5: Identify predator management issues for redress by local governments
 - Task 1: Jan-Feb 2017
 - Task 2: Feb-Apr 2017 (PPWG)
 - Task 3: Apr-May 2017 (WRC)
 - Task 4: May-Jun 2017 (Commission)
- Objective 6: Identify best management practices
 - Task 1: Oct-Dec 2016
 - Task 2: Oct-Dec 2016
 - Task 3: Oct-Dec 2016
 - Task 4: Jan-Apr 2017 (PPWG)
 - Task 5: Apr-May 2017 (WRC)
 - Task 6: May-Jun 2017 (Commission)

Memorandum

Date: March 28, 2016

To: Mike Yaun, Acting Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director



Subject: **Predator Policy Workgroup and Recommended Species for Inclusion**

Attached to this memo is a spreadsheet with the Department of Fish and Wildlife's (Department) compilation of carnivore species that we recommend be considered in the deliberations by the Wildlife Resource Committee (WRC) in developing a predator policy and regulations. The list was originally developed by the Department in consultation and coordination with stakeholders of the WRC predator policy effort.

We have color-coded and indicated on the spreadsheet with a Yes (Y) or No (N) as to whether we recommend the species be included in the WRC effort, and provide reasons for that recommendation (Recommendation for Inclusion in WRC/FGC Predator Policy Development Effort). For example, we do not recommend including the state/federal listed species at this time because there either is no take authorized, or there may already be significant conservation/recovery action taking place. We do emphasize those species for which take does occur and for which there may be concern regarding that take, and for which additional ecological data on distribution and abundance would prove beneficial to inform decision-making.

Additionally, and significantly for the Department, we have provided the Department's recommendation for our own efforts at invigorating our attention to carnivore species conservation and management (a multi-species carnivore conservation/management strategy). We have identified the suite of species for which substantial effort already occurs (e.g., gray wolf, Sierra Nevada red fox, and black bear); as well as the species for which we have limited data and limited conservation/management activity (e.g., badger, wolverine, desert kit fox).

This initial analysis represents what we anticipate could be a new era for the Department in conserving and managing many of these highly relevant carnivore species that have had relatively little attention paid to them over the decades of wildlife conservation in the state.

As a reminder, the Department has embarked on a somewhat parallel, but slightly different, track to the WRC predator policy group, by beginning to investigate the broader concept of carnivore conservation in California.

Mike Yaun, Acting Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission
March 28, 2016
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Our purpose is to develop biological/ecological data in support of the Fish and Game Commission's WRC priority areas for predator policy, but also develop a sound conservation framework for California's carnivores.

If you have any questions or desire additional information, please contact Eric Loft, Chief of Wildlife at eric.loft@wildlife.ca.gov or 916-445-3555.

Attachment

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California Terrestrial Predators and Furbearers	Recommendation for Inclusion in WRC/FGC Predator Policy Development Effort?	Recommended species for which CDFW would propose developing a multi-species carnivore conservation/management strategy*	Fam	Genus	Species	Subsp	Take
Northwestern Black Bear	N-Significant management action is already in place, species plan exists. Public opportunity to engage at any time exists.	N- But consider how current efforts may affect multi-species conservation strategy.	Carnivora	Ursus	americanus	altifrontalis	season/area \$365
California Black Bear	N-Significant management action is already in place, species plan exists. Public opportunity to engage at any time exists.	N- But consider how current efforts may affect multi-species conservation strategy.	Carnivora	Ursus	americanus	californiensis	season/area \$365
Fisher	N- There is no legal authorized take outside of Scientific purposes	Y - Develop multi-species conservation strategy	Carnivora	Martes	pennanti		No Take-\$460/ Threatened FG 2080
Marten	N- There is no legal authorized take outside of Scientific purposes	Y - Develop multi-species conservation strategy	Carnivora	Martes	americana		No Take-\$460/ Candidate FG 2080
River Otter	N- There is no legal authorized take outside of Scientific purposes	Y - Develop multi-species conservation strategy	Carnivora	Lontra	canadensis		No Take-\$460
Desert Kit Fox	N- There is no legal authorized take outside of Scientific purposes	Y - Develop multi-species conservation strategy	Carnivora	Vulpes	macrotis	arsipus	No Take-\$460
Native Valley Red Fox	N- There is no legal authorized take outside of Scientific purposes	Y - Develop multi-species conservation strategy	Carnivora	Vulpes	vulpes	ssp	No Take-\$460
Sierra Nevada Red Fox	N- There is no legal authorized take outside of Scientific purposes	Y - Develop multi-species conservation strategy, perhaps address independently since very rare.	Carnivora	Vulpes	vulpes	nector	No Take-\$460/ Threatened FG 2080
Badger	Y	Y - Develop multi-species conservation strategy	Carnivora	Taxidea	taxus		season \$461
Gray Fox	Y	Y - Develop multi-species conservation strategy	Carnivora	Urocyon	cinereoargenteus		season \$461
Muskrat	N - Not carnivora	N - but consider current levels of take.	Rodentia	Ondatra	zibethicus		season \$462
Mink	Y - Consider current levels of take	N - but consider current levels of take.	Carnivora	Mustela	vison		season \$462
Beaver	N- Not carnivora	Y - but not under the umbrella of carnivores - as a stand-alone	Rodentia	Castor	canadensis		season/area \$463
Raccoon	Y - Consider current levels of take	N - but consider current levels of take	Carnivora	Procyon	lotor		season/area \$464
Bobcat	Y	Y	Carnivora	Lynx	rufus		season \$478
Coyote	Y	Y	Carnivora	Canis	latrans		year round \$472 \$474
Striped Skunk	N- Effort not needed, primarily a depredation species	N - but consider how take may affect other predators	Carnivora	Mephitis	mephitis		year round \$472 \$474
Spotted Skunk	N- Effort not needed, primarily a depredation species	N - but consider how take may affect other predators	Carnivora	Spirogale	gracilis		year round \$472 \$474
Opossum	N - Not carnivora	N	Didelphimorphia	Didelphis	virginiana		year round \$472 \$474
Short-tailed Weasel	Y	Y but within this category of carnivores, a species of lesser knowledge as well as perhaps cons/mgt need.	Carnivora	Mustela	erminea		year round \$472 \$474
Long-tailed Weasel	Y	Y but within this category of carnivores, a species of lesser knowledge as well as perhaps cons/mgt need.	Carnivora	Mustela	frenata	(9)	year round \$472 \$474
Gray Wolf	N - Significant management action planning is already in place, species plan exists. Public opportunity to engage at any time exists.	N- But consider how current efforts may affect multi-species conservation strategy.	Carnivora	Canis	lupus		depredation dnlly- FG4152/ Endangered FG 2080
Island Spotted Skunk	N- Effort not needed	N - Island not accessible to public	Carnivora	Spirogale	gracilis	amphialus	No Take NP/Nature Conservancy managed lands.\$670.5
San Joaquin Kit Fox	N- There is no legal authorized take outside of Scientific purposes	N-Current State/Federal Coordination on Conserv/Manage	Carnivora	Vulpes	macrotis	mutica	No Take-FG 2080
Island Fox	N- There is no legal authorized take outside of Scientific purposes	N- Current State/Federal Coordination on Conserv/Manage,	Carnivora	Urocyon	littoralis	(6)	No Take-FG 2080
Santa Cruz Island Fox	N- There is no legal authorized take outside of Scientific purposes	N- Current State/Federal Coordination on Conserv/Manage	Carnivora	Urocyon	littoralis	santacruzae	No Take-FG 2080
Catalina Island Fox	N- There is no legal authorized take outside of Scientific purposes	N- Current State/Federal Coordination on Conserv/Manage	Carnivora	Urocyon	littoralis	catalinae	No Take-FG 2080
Mountain Lion	N- Significant management action planning is already in place. Public opportunity to engage at any time exists.	N- But consider how current efforts may affect multi-species conservation strategy.	Carnivora	Puma	concolor	cougar	No Take-FG 4800, \$251.4
Wolverine	N- There is no legal authorized take outside of Scientific purposes	Y - Wolverine perhaps addressed independently given the potential future opportunities for translocation to CA.	Carnivora	Gulo	gulo	luscus	No Take-FG 4700
Ring-tailed Cat	N- There is no legal authorized take outside of Scientific purposes	Y - but within this category of carnivores, a species of lesser knowledge as well as perhaps cons/mgt need.	Carnivora	Bassariscus	astutus		No Take-FG 4700
		* Dependent upon funding and personnel resources to implement.					