

## WORKGROUP STAFF SUMMARY FOR MARCH 20, 2017

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

Discuss and possibly revise the draft terrestrial predators policy.

**Summary of Previous/Future Actions**

- WRC discussion Jan 18, 2017; WRC, Redding
- Previous PPWG discussion Feb 21, 2017; PPWG, Sacramento
- **Today's PPWG discussion Mar 20, 2017; PPWG, Sacramento**

**Background**

In Feb 2017, the Predator Policy Workgroup (PPWG) revisited the draft terrestrial predators policy based on guidance provided by WRC Co-chair Williams at the Jan 2017 WRC meeting and proposed revisions submitted by a subset of PPWG members. At the Feb meeting, PPWG made further revisions to the draft policy (Exhibit 1) but decided to discuss the revisions at the next PPWG meeting (today).

Today, PPWG will discuss whether to make further revisions to the draft policy.

**Significant Public Comments**

Letter received with suggested edits to the draft terrestrial predators policy for PPWG's consideration.

**Recommendation (N/A)****Exhibits**

1. [Draft terrestrial predators policy, revised Feb 21, 2017](#)
2. [Letter from Miriam Seger and other, received Mar 9, 2017](#)

**Workgroup Decision/Recommendation (N/A)**

**DRAFT California Fish and Game Commission**  
**Terrestrial Predators Policy**  
**Developed by the Wildlife Resources Committee's**  
**Predator Policy Workgroup**  
**Revised Feb 21, 2017**

It is the policy of the Fish and Game Commission that:

- I. For the purposes of this policy, terrestrial predators are defined as all native, wildlife species in the Order Carnivora, except those in the Family Otariidae (seals, sea lions) and the Family Phocidae (true seals).
- II. Pursuant to the objectives in Section 1801 of Fish and Game Code, the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) acknowledges that native terrestrial predators are an integral part of California's natural wildlife and possess intrinsic, biological, historical, and cultural value which benefit society and ecosystems. The Commission shall promote the ecological, scientific, aesthetic, recreational, and educational value of native terrestrial predators in the context of ecosystem-based management while minimizing adverse impacts on wildlife and reducing conflicts that result in adverse impacts to humans, including health and safety, private property, agriculture, and other public and private economic impacts.
- III. The Commission further recognizes that sustainable conservation and management strategies are necessary to encourage the coexistence of humans and wildlife. It is, therefore, the policy and practice of the Fish and Game Commission that:
  - A. Existing native terrestrial predator communities and their habitats are monitored, maintained, restored, and/or enhanced using the best available science. The department shall protect, conserve, and provide consumptive and non-consumptive recreational opportunities. The recreational take of native terrestrial predator species shall be managed in a way that ensures sustainable populations of predator and prey are maintained.
  - B. Human-predator conflicts shall rely on management strategies that avoid and reduce conflict that results in adverse impacts to human health and safety, private property, agriculture, and public and private economic impacts. Efforts should be made to minimize habituation of predators where it is leading to conflict. Human safety shall be considered a priority and management decisions shall evaluate and consider lethal and nonlethal controls that are efficacious, humane, feasible and in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

C. Native terrestrial predator management shall be consistent with the goals and objectives of existing management and conservation plans. Management strategies shall recognize the ecological interactions between predators and other wildlife species and consider all available management tools, best available science, affected habitat, and other constraints.

DRAFT

From: Conservation Review Group  
c/o Miriam Seger,

To: Predator Policy Work Group  
c/o Erin Chappell, California Fish and Game Commission  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320, Sacramento, CA 95814  
fgc@fgc.ca.gov

Re: Conservation Review Group Input, Draft, Revised Feb. 21, 2017  
California Fish and Game Commission Terrestrial Predator Policy

March 9, 2017

Dear Ms. Chappell and Predator Policy Working Group,

The undersigned reviewers of our designated Review Group would like to submit the attached language changes for consideration. We hope that our input can contribute to a wider perspective within this document.

Below are notes on our suggested revisions, by section. Please also see the Reviewer Draft, with our changes in blue. We've taken the liberty of streamlining redundancies, as we feel it to be in the best interest of the collaborative to present the Commissioners with the most polished draft possible, in order to increase its chances of acceptance and to avoid delays.

By section:

II.

- “Non-appropriative” is consistent with the language of 1801, to which this draft is pursuant. Furthermore, “consumptive and non-consumptive” implies adversarial and mutually exclusive objectives.
- The word “impacts” is used redundantly, so we've offered equivalents.

III A.

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- By replacing “**The** recreational take” with “**Any** recreational take”, take may be deemed appropriate as a management strategy but it is not *assumed* to be a management strategy.
- Population numbers and breeding populations do not always represent durable genetics. Therefore, biological health becomes important in any assessments of sustainability.

III B.

- Streamlined language and removed redundancies. “Conflicts” and “impacts” both used twice in one sentence.
- Alone, the word “efficacious” is highly interpretive and needs qualification to avoid confusion with expediency. It's critical to qualify efficacy in order to temper the very broad term “feasible” in order to fairly represent the spectrum of stakeholders, many of whom do not wish to see loopholes created for depredations.

**Reviewer Draft, Revised March 8, 2017**

It is the policy of the Fish and Game Commission that:

I. For the purposes of this policy, terrestrial predators are defined as all native, wildlife species in the Order Carnivora, except those in the Family Otariidae (seals, sea lions) and the Family Phocidae (true seals).

II. Pursuant to the objectives in Section 1801 of Fish and Game Code, the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) acknowledges that native terrestrial predators are an integral part of California's natural wildlife and possess intrinsic, biological, historical, and cultural value(s) which benefit society and ecosystems. The Commission shall promote the ecological, scientific, aesthetic, recreational, and educational value of native terrestrial predators in the context of ecosystem-based management, while minimizing adverse impacts on wildlife and reducing conflicts that result in ~~adverse impacts~~ consequences to humans, including health and safety, private property, agriculture, and other public and private economic ~~impacts~~ factors.

III. The Commission further recognizes that sustainable conservation and management strategies are necessary to encourage the coexistence of humans and wildlife. It is, therefore, the policy and practice of the Fish and Game Commission that:

A. Existing native terrestrial predator communities and their habitats are monitored, maintained, restored, and/or enhanced using the best available science. The department shall protect, conserve, and provide both consumptive and ~~non-consumptive non-appropriative~~ recreational opportunities. ~~Any~~ The recreational take of native terrestrial predator species shall be managed ~~in a way that ensures to ensure that~~ sustainable and biologically healthy populations of predator and prey are maintained.

B. Human-predator conflicts shall rely on management strategies that ~~avoid and reduce conflict that result in~~ mitigate adverse impacts to human health and safety, private property, agriculture, and public and private economics ~~impacts~~. Efforts should be made to minimize habituation of predators where it is leading to conflict. Human safety shall be considered a priority and management decisions shall evaluate and consider lethal and nonlethal controls that ~~are efficacious,~~ have long-term efficacy, are humane, feasible, and in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

C. Native terrestrial predator management shall be consistent with the goals and objectives of existing management and conservation plans. Management strategies shall recognize the ecological interactions between predators and other wildlife species and consider all available management tools, best available science, affected habitat, and other constraints.

In closing, we greatly appreciate copious hours and efforts expended by the Work Group and staff, in order to arrive at the Feb. 21, 2017 Draft.

Thank you for including our commentary in this process.

Respectfully,

Erin Hauge  
Certified California Naturalist

Keli Hendriks  
Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue

Tom O' Key  
Reviewer: Founder, Project Bobcat

Veronica Yovovich  
Wildlife Conflict Specialist, Mountain Lion Foundation

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