

STAFF SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER 6-7, 2017

12. ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS (NON-MARINE)**Today's Item**Information Action

This is a standing agenda item for FGC staff and DFW to provide FGC with updates on non-marine items of interest from previous meetings. For this meeting:

- (A) DFW update on its trapping costs analysis
- (B) Other

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- (A)
 - FGC discussion Oct 11-12, 2017; Atascadero
 - **Today's discussion** **Dec 6-7, 2017; San Diego**
- (B)
 - N/A

Background**(A) *DFW trapping costs analysis***

In Feb 2016, FGC received a petition (Tracking No. 2015-009) from the Center for Biological Diversity and Project Coyote requesting that FGC raise commercial trapping license fees to a level necessary to recover all reasonable administrative and implementation costs associated with the trapping program, consistent with Fish and Game Code Section 4006(c). For purposes of this petition, a "commercial trapping license" is used to describe licensees for trapping with the intent to sell furs and does not include licensees that provide trapping services for a fee. In Apr 2016, FGC referred the petition to DFW for further evaluation and recommendation.

In Oct 2017, following FGC staff and DFW review of the petition, FGC denied the petition as it was determined to require legislation. However, DFW described a related effort to conduct an analysis of the administrative and implementation costs associated with trapping licenses, and offered to provide a status update at the Dec 2017 FGC meeting and to present its draft findings at the Feb 2018 FGC meeting. Following the discussion, FGC revised its rulemaking timetable to specify that trapping license fees would be considered at the Jun, Aug, and Oct 2018 meetings, in the event that adjustments to the trapping license fees are needed based on DFW's analysis.

Today, DFW will provide an update on the status of its analysis.

(B) *Other*

FGC staff has not identified any other items for discussion today.

Significant Public Comments

Received 123 form emails in support of raising trapping license fees (see example, [Exhibit 1](#)).

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Recommendation (N/A)

Exhibits

1. [Sample email from Pamela Lambert, received Nov 22, 2017](#)

Motion/Direction (N/A)

From: Pamela Lambert
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 2:20 PM
To: FGC
Subject: Protect California's Wolves From Hunting, Raise Trapping Fees

Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing to urge you to ban night hunting of coyotes and the use of lethal traps and snares in territory that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has identified as suitable wolf habitat -- some of which is occupied by wolves at immediate risk of injury or death posed by these activities. Because wolves are fully protected as endangered under both state and federal law, it is incumbent upon the Department and California Commission of Fish and Wildlife to prevent clear risk of harm or death to these magnificent, ecologically important animals.

The state has full authority to take this step; furthermore, a state precedent exists to ban night hunting and the use of lethal traps and snares in the habitat of other species protected under state and federal law. Such bans, still in place, were enacted by this commission to protect the highly endangered San Joaquin Valley kit fox and the Sierra Nevada red fox.

I'm also asking you to raise the fees which the state charges for trapping licenses and permits. State law requires that the administration of the state's trapping program be fully covered by those fees. However, the trapping program is not in compliance; state fees are minimal and as a result, taxpayers are shouldering most of the cost of program operations. The commission and department must comply with state law and raise the trapping fees to make the program self-funding. Most taxpayers, myself included, would be horrified to know that their money was being used to support a program and practice which is archaic, unethical and cruel.

Last year several conservation groups filed administrative petitions with the commission urging action on these two issues. But you have made little to no progress. This is unacceptable. With each passing day, wolves are placed at risk, coyotes are unethically shot, and taxpayers are unwittingly funding the killing of animals with cruel traps and snares.

Please take action and set the wheels in motion to enact the requested regulatory changes. Any continued delay leaves the lives of many species of wildlife, endangered and non-endangered alike, hanging in the balance.

Thank you for taking my concerns into consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Pamela Lambert

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