

Staff Summary for April 16-17, 2025

18B. Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC)**Today's Item**Information ☐Action ☒

Discuss referred topics and consider revisions to topics and timing. Consider approving draft agenda topics and changing the meeting location for the next committee meeting on May 15, 2025.

Note: Reference to changing the meeting location for the May 15 WRC meeting is an error; staff does not recommend any change to the meeting location.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

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| • Previous committee meeting | January 15, 2025; WRC |
| • Today consider approving agenda topics | April 16-17, 2025 |
| • Next committee meeting | May 15, 2025; WRC |

Background

WRC works under Commission direction to set and accomplish its work plan.

Committee Work Plan

Topics that have been referred by the Commission to WRC are displayed within a work plan for scheduling and tracking. The updated work plan is Exhibit 1 and includes proposed topics for May 2025.

Update and New Topics

At its February meeting, the Commission requested WRC revisit the topic of “coyotes” associated with the take of nongame mammals topic and to keep the topic narrowly focused on coyotes. Consequently, staff proposes renaming the topic “Take of Nongame Mammals” to “Take of Coyotes” to more properly reflect the narrowed scope of the re-referred topic.

Staff recommends referring “Black bear hunting” to WRC as a new topic, to initiate discussion on an upcoming Department-recommended rulemaking with the release of the Department’s April 2025 “Black Bear Conservation and Management Plan for California.”

Next Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2025 in Sacramento, with webinar and phone options. In addition to standing agenda items (Department updates and future agenda items), eight topics are proposed:

- *Periodic and Annual Rulemakings (6 topics):* Initial vetting for (1) upland (resident) game birds; (2) mammal hunting; (3) waterfowl hunting; (4) Central Valley sport fishing; (5) Klamath River Basin sport fishing; and (6) Department lands.
- *Take of Coyotes:* Discussion and potential recommendation for concerns regarding the indiscriminate take of coyotes.

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- *Bear Hunting*: Initial vetting for amendments to bear hunting zones, tags, and other aspects.

Significant Public Comments

1. State Assemblymember Hadwick, State Senator Dahle, the County of Lassen, and the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors all request that the take of nongame mammals topic be referred back to WRC for further discussion (exhibits 2 through 4).
2. The Colusa County Fish and Game Advisory Commission, with the support of the Colusa County Farm Bureau, requests that the Commission not prohibit the take of any nongame mammals because they are becoming more intrusive and problematic, especially in rural areas (Exhibit 5).
3. Animal Pest Services and two cattle ranchers from Butte County (in separate comments) urge the Committee to continue allow the take of coyotes. The former also points out that there is no evidence that coyote populations are decreasing (Exhibit 6).

Recommendation

Commission staff: Approve the draft agenda topics for the May 15 WRC meeting, and approve the work plan as proposed in Exhibit 1, including any changes identified during today's meeting.

Exhibits

1. [WRC work plan, updated April 9, 2025](#)
2. [Letter from Assemblymember Hadwick and State Senator Dahle, received February 12, 2025](#)
3. [Letter from Tony Shaw, Administrator, Lassen County, received February 10, 2025](#)
4. [Letter from Nancy Ogren, Chair, Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors, received February 11, 2025](#)
5. [Letter from Jon Wrysinski, Chairman, Colusa County Fish & Game Advisory Commission, received February 21, 2025](#)
6. [Letters from Dan Fox, President, Animal Pest Management, received February 10, 2025, and Tim and Shirley Bohan, received February 14, 2025](#)

Motion

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission approves the topics for the May 15, 2025 Wildlife Resources Committee meeting, as discussed today, and approves the work plan as proposed.