

16A. Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC)

Today's Item	Information <input type="checkbox"/>	Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Receive a summary and recommendations from the January 13, 2026 committee meeting, potentially act on the recommendations, discuss referred topics, and consider revisions to topics and timing.		

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- Previous WRC meeting January 13, 2026; WRC
- **Today consider approving WRC recommendations** February 11-12, 2026
- Next WRC meeting May 14, 2026; WRC

Background

WRC works under Commission direction to set and accomplish its work plan (Exhibit 1). Today, the Commission will receive a report on the previous WRC meeting and recommendations, and provide direction for any referred topics and revisions to WRC topics and timing.

Previous Committee Meeting

WRC met on January 13 in Sacramento, with Zoom and phone options for public participation. Official meeting minutes are posted on the [Commission's YouTube page](#), with a link also available on the Commission's meetings page at fgc.ca.gov/meetings/2026. An abbreviated summary is included in this document. Detailed overviews, exhibits, and presentations for each of the topics are available in the [WRC meeting materials](#).

Sport Fishing

The Department presented, and WRC discussed, recommendations for multiple regulatory adjustments aimed at increasing fishing opportunities while protecting fish populations. The Department introduced several newly-recommended amendments, including a clarification to the method of total length measurements for fish, which affects both inland and marine waters and was vetted by the Marine Resources Committee in November 2025. WRC developed a recommendation.

Commercial Use of Rattlesnakes

The Department recommended initiating a rulemaking to establish a permit for the transfer, propagation, and possession of native rattlesnakes for commercial purposes. Discussion centered around ensuring humane husbandry practices, permitting logistics and reporting requirements, and prohibitions on releasing snakes, and led to a WRC recommendation.

Mammal Trapping

The Department recommended initiating a future rulemaking to align regulations with recent statutory changes regarding mammal trapping. Points of discussion included trapping reports,

Staff Summary for February 11-12, 2026

suspension and reinstatement of trapping licenses, and the prohibition on relocating and/or releasing nuisance wildlife. Further discussion and potential WRC recommendation is planned for May.

Department Lands

WRC reviewed Department recommendations for amendments to regulations governing Department lands, including ecological reserves and wildlife areas. Proposed changes address public use (e.g., hunting, boating, bicycling), updates to the Lands Pass Program, designation and removal of designations for specific properties, and other adjustments. Discussion will continue, with a potential WRC recommendation anticipated in May.

WRC Recommendations

WRC makes three recommendations to the Commission:

1. *Sport Fishing*. Support a future rulemaking regarding sport fishing as recommended by the Department.
2. *Commercial Use of Rattlesnakes*. Support a future rulemaking regarding the commercial use of rattlesnakes as recommended by the Department.
3. *Work Plan*. Update the Committee work plan as proposed in Exhibit 1, by removing the word “Inland” from the sport fishing rulemaking topic to clarify that the scope includes potential amendments to marine regulations.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)

Recommendation

Commission staff: Approve the WRC recommendations, including a change to the work plan as proposed in Exhibit 1.

Exhibits

1. [WRC work plan, updated January 2, 2026](#)

Motion

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission approves the recommendations from the January 2026 Wildlife Resources Committee meeting, and approves the change to the work plan as presented in Exhibit 1 and any further changes discussed today.

California Fish and Game Commission
Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC) Work Plan
Scheduled Topics and Timeline for Items Referred to WRC
Updated January 2, 2026

Note: Proposed changes to topics/timing are shown in blue underscore or strike-out font.

Topics	Category	Sep 2025	Jan 2026	May 2026
Periodic and Annual Regulations				
Upland (Resident) Game Bird Hunting	Regulatory	X/R		X
Big Game Hunting (deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, black bear, Nelson bighorn sheep)	Regulatory	X/R		X
Waterfowl Hunting	Annual Regulatory	X/R		X
Central Valley Sport Fishing	Annual Regulatory	X/R		X
Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing	Annual Regulatory	X/R		X
<u>Inland</u> Sport Fishing	Regulatory	X	X/R	
Department Lands	Regulatory	X/R	X	X/R
Regulations & Legislative Mandates				
Mammal Trapping	Regulatory		X	X/R
Commercial Use of Rattlesnakes	Regulatory	X	X/R	
Restricted Species	Regulatory			
Take of Coyotes	Referral for Review			

KEY: X = Vetting/Discussion X/R = Discussion/Potential Recommendation to Commission