

Washington State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Meeting
July 10, 2025

-- STAC Wildlife Subcommittee Update --

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On June 4 the Wildlife Subcommittee met (via Teams), with eight representatives from member entities participating. The primary purpose was to review and discuss the draft charter, which serves to document the purpose, organization, and procedures of the Wildlife subcommittee. Members discussed the various elements of the draft charter, with questions or clarification requested about attendance by alternative representatives and about the process for proposing potential topics for future subcommittee meetings. Comments on the draft charter were provided to the STAC facilitator for consideration before review and finalization of the charter by the State Conservationist. Also, the continuing membership of the subcommittee was verified by the co-chairs over the last month, through which we confirmed several vacancies by prior members which no longer have an active representative participating in the subcommittee.

Beyond the charter/membership review, the Wildlife subcommittee was provided updates on two technical subjects. This spring new guidance from Working Lands for Wildlife/Areawide Planning Branch clarified the process for States to provide updated maps (geographies) for Identified Priorities, such as the Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI). In response to that guidance, NB-440-25-18, WA NRCS was able to submit our proposed updated SGI priority areas, which the Wildlife subcommittee helped finalize last fall/winter. Also, I updated the subcommittee on the example non-lethal predator conflict-reduction practices discussed at February STAC meeting, and initial coordination with USFWS on potential effects of such practices on listed species. Two committee members shared particular interests in such practices, noting Conservation Northwest's promotion of range riding to reduce wolf conflicts, as well as increasing cougar-livestock conflicts on the westside, where fencing exclosures are being evaluated as a potential means to reduce conflicts.