

Meeting Date: May 17, 2017

Agenda Item No. 13

Agenda Item: Wolf Plan Outline, Review Steps

Bureau Chief Approval: _____

Prepared by: Jim Hayden, Craig White

Background:

The Department has assessed available wolf data and literature, and developed an outline for the wolf management plan (see attachment for draft outline). In addition, staff has written most of the draft chapters of the wolf plan based on the outline. Initial management direction in the draft wolf management plan is based on biological data, social desires by hunters, and previous policy direction from the Commission. Staff will prepare a final draft, seek executive leadership review, request release for public review from the Commission, revise the plan based on public input, and request adoption by the Commission based on the following schedule:

Milestones

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|------------------|---|
| May 17 | Commission meeting update with outline and updated schedule |
| May 29 | Staff complete initial draft |
| June 23 | Regional review completed |
| July 7 | Executive leadership review completed, final draft prepared |
| July 8 | Final draft included in Commission packet |
| July 26-28 | Request Commission to release for public comment |
| July 31 - Aug 18 | Public input |
| Aug TBD | Incorporate public comment and prepare final plan |
| Aug TBD | Request Commission adoption |

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Key considerations:

- Demonstrating management that continues to ensure a self-sustaining wolf population
- Addressing wolf management opportunities and needs

Public Involvement Process:

The public involvement process for development of a plan typically consists of

1. A series of public meetings and website opportunity explaining the draft plan, gathering input for consideration in constructing the final plan.
2. A public meeting before the commission regarding response to the final plan before commission action on the plan.

Justification:

Development of a wolf plan identifies current issues and establishes management guidance for wolves in Idaho.

Staff Recommendation:

Information only

Action Requested:

None