

Meeting Date: January 26, 2023

Agenda Item No. 5.B.

Agenda Item: Management Plan for Fisher, Wolverine, and Canada Lynx

Bureau Chief Approval: JR

Prepared by: Cory Mosby, Furbearer Staff Biologist

Background:

Staff presented an overview of the draft *Management Plan for the Conservation of Fisher, Wolverine, and Canada Lynx* at the Commission's November 2022 meeting. This plan provides updated guidance and identifies management priorities for the conservation of this suite of species over the next six years (2023-2028).

Staff will provide a review of public comments received on the draft plan, as well as improvements made in preparing the final draft in response to the input received.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission administers state wildlife policy through supervision and management of the Department (Idaho Code 36-104). Species management plans are the guiding documents to manage wildlife and are a direct reflection of the Department Strategic Plan. The management plan for the conservation of fisher, wolverine, and Canada lynx will function as the action plan for conservation and management activities of these species in Idaho.

Public Involvement Process:

The draft plan was posted on the Department's website on December 13, 2022; comments were accepted through January 3, 2023 (21 days).

Public input summary:

- 21 unique submissions with 16 written comments
- 81% of respondents were Idaho residents
- When asked to indicate their satisfaction with the plan:
 - 67% (n=14) of respondents generally supported the plan
 - 24% (n=5) of respondents supported the plan with some concerns
 - 9% (n=2) of respondents did not support the plan

Upon review of the comments, several small changes were identified related to clarification of the fisher habitat selection, clarification of figures depicting wolverine range, observations, and occupancy, and technical edits. These changes have been made and are represented in the draft presented to the Commission for consideration.

Justification:

The Commission sets policy and provides direction, considers input from the public, and has the authority to adopt, amend, or reject Department-recommended plans. This plan will guide management actions, and monitoring activities for fisher, wolverine, and Canada lynx through 2028.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Commission adopt the *Management Plan for the Conservation of Fisher, Wolverine, and Canada Lynx (2023-2028)* as presented.

Suggested Motion: That the Commission adopt the *Management Plan for the Conservation of Fisher, Wolverine, and Canada Lynx (2023-2028)*.