



December 15, 2021

The Honorable Jay Inslee
Governor, State of Washington
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Governor Inslee,

The undersigned organizations, which represent thousands of hunters, anglers, outdoor enthusiasts, and indigenous stewards, sincerely recommend that the currently unfilled seats on the Washington Department Fish and Wildlife Commission immediately be appointed to individuals that are committed to upholding science-based wildlife management decisions and the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

The unappointed seat apportioned to Eastern Washington on the Commission has resulted in a lack of representation by the State under law. Furthermore, vital issues regarding our wildlife deserve to be decided by a majority vote to provide clear policy through a fully seated and confirmed WDFW Commission consisting of all nine members. It is imperative that the Commission be fully seated with all nine members, including the recently vacated at-large appointment, to serve the best interests of our state, the wildlife it manages, and hunting and angling opportunities.

The undersigned organizations urge the Governor to advance commissioners who understands science-based wildlife and habitat management, including the nuances of predator mitigation and management objectives, as well as the impact to and protection of First Foods for indigenous people, which include salmon, elk, and deer. The organizations in this letter collectively represent dedicated conservationists who have invested in wildlife management, conservation and habitat acquisition through financial means and volunteer labor for more than a century. It's through their actions and dedication that robust wildlife populations and

habitat have been sustained in Washington. We believe wildlife management in Washington should be undertaken by Commissioners who will lead with pragmatic decision-making in full consideration of recommendations from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in accordance with its mission.

For these reasons, we urge the Governor to carefully consider the qualifications of any candidate's ability to fulfill the mandate of the Commission, including the responsibility to "maximize hunting opportunities" and allowing the department to "preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage the wildlife" (RCW 77.04.012). For the wellbeing of our public lands, waters, and wildlife, it is imperative that your appointments are individuals who engage the role with a vested interest in hunting and angling as an essential function of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

Sincerely,

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Inland Northwest Wildlife Council

Ducks Unlimited

Wenatchee Sportsmen Association

***Theodore Roosevelt Conservation
Partnership***

Richland Rod and Gun Club

Western Bear Foundation

Inland Empire Safari Club International

Northwest Sportsmen's Club

Sportsmen's Alliance