Draft Wolf Management Plan is Met With Concerns, Skeptics at Thursday Meeting

Local News

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Posted on : October 30, 2009 at 6:20 am

ABERDEEN, Wash. - It was 12 to 3 Against during the public comment phase of a meeting last night to discuss a draft wolf management plan in Washington State held by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Concerns ranged from safety issues - using the Cougar as an example, Frank Majeski said "The Cougar population has excalated to a level where people are shooting them during dear season" ..to funding issues, and existing issues with the state's Elk population - using Bitteroot as an example John Hubler said "I hunted the Bitteroot area of Montana back in 1997, and I went back in 2007 and what a change, because of the wolves."

Northern Gray Wolves were listed as an endangered species at the Federal level in 1973, at the state level in 1980. The Department has been working for three years on a management plan for the wolves that have migrated into Eastern Washington from recovering populations in Idaho and Montana.
The draft plan is the preferred alternative among four presented in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), as required by the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The DEIS and draft wolf plan are available on the WDFW website at **http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildlife/management/gray_wolf/**. Desk copies of the DEIS will be available at WDFW regional offices and public libraries by Oct. 9. Those unable to view or download the DEIS on the website can request paper or compact disc copies by calling (360) 902-2515.

Comments can be submitted through Jan. 8 electronically at **http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildlife/management/gray_wolf/mgmt_plan.html**, by FAX to (360) 902-2946, or by U.S. Mail to: WDFW SEPA Desk, 600 Capitol Way N. Olympia, WA 98501-1091.