

STAFF SUMMARY FOR JUNE 22-23, 2016

12A. WILDLIFE PROSECUTOR POLICY**Today's Item**Information Action

Discuss and adopt proposed FGC policy on Wildlife Prosecutor of the Year.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- Direction to develop policy Feb 11-12, 2015
- **Today's policy adoption Jun 22-23, 2016; Bakersfield**

Background

In previous years, the Department's Law Enforcement Division (LED) has recommended that FGC bestow an award on specific District Attorney prosecutors based on the prosecutor's contributions in one or more State fish and game prosecutions. LED's nominees were selected by FGC and then an award was presented to the selected prosecutors at the California District Attorneys Association annual summer meeting. In February 2015, FGC directed staff to develop a draft policy to formalize an annual award to outstanding and exemplary wildlife prosecutors.

FGC staff worked with DFW staff from both LED and Wildlife and Fisheries Division to create the attached draft policy.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation**

FGC staff: Adopt the policy as proposed.

Exhibits

1. [\[Draft\] Wildlife Prosecutor of the Year Policy](#)

Motion/Direction

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission adopts the proposed Wildlife Prosecutor of the Year Policy.

California Fish and Game Commission

Wildlife Prosecutor of the Year Policy

Revised Draft May 26, 2016

It is the policy of the Fish and Game Commission to honor a courtroom champion of California's fish, wildlife and natural resources, a person who tirelessly prosecutes fish, wildlife, natural resource and environmental crimes in California courts. The Commission will recognize this prosecutor through an annual Wildlife Prosecutor of the Year Award.

Eligibility

Any currently seated District Attorney or Deputy District Attorney is eligible for nomination and the contribution must have occurred during the previous three years.

Nominations

Based on input from wildlife officers and their experiences in the field, the Department of Fish and Wildlife's Deputy Director, Law Enforcement Division, may submit up to four nominations. Of the four nominations, no more than one may be from each Department law enforcement district. The nominations must be submitted to a selection committee (identified below) no later than March 15.

Selection Criteria

The award recognizes one attorney who exhibits one or more of the following:

- (1) exceptional skill and an outstanding commitment to protecting California's fish, wildlife and natural resources;
- (2) superior performance in prosecuting wildlife, natural resource and environmental crimes;
- (3) relentless pursuit of justice for the most egregious violators and keen ability to prosecute complex, controversial or landmark cases; or
- (4) exemplary work promoting and maintaining a collaborative working relationship with wildlife officers in pursuit of conserving our natural resources.

Selection Committee

The selection committee will consist of the President and the Executive Director of the Commission, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife's Director and Deputy Director, Law Enforcement Division.

Award Announcement

The award will be announced at the Commission's meeting in June, and presented to the recipient during the California District Attorney Association's annual summer conference.

[List/View all previous Wildlife Prosecutors of the Year recipients]

(Proposed adoption: 06/22/2016)