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5/1/13 hearing Senate Environment and Natural Resources

### **Support Amendment to HB2252**

1. Amendment reinstates requirement for periodic 5-year review of bear, cougar and wolf management plans.

2. This provides a means of ensuring the best and most current science is in use

3. History: requirement eliminated by commission in 2011 at request of department when legally challenged re lack of bear plan update

--bear plan went 13 years before update

--cougar plan has not been updated since 2006

4. Cougar Plan has received limited peer review in 2005 when drafted, and again in 2009 as required by budget note.

-- These reviews resulted in significant and serious concerns from well-known cougar experts re. methodology, population modeling and estimates.

5. Most troubling is lack of response to 15+ years of field research in Washington showing that current management as dictated by cougar plan is to increase mortality in an attempt to hold population to levels estimated in 1994.

6. Please support this amendment to provide a means of keeping up with wildlife research and a means of keeping decision makers informed.

7. Materials provided:

--2010 peer review from Washington State University

--Summary of Washington State University cougar research