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April 29, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

FROM: Jeff Allen, Policy Analyst

SUBJECT: Presentation by Western Governors' Association on Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool

PRESENTERS: Gregg Servheen, Wildlife Program Coordinator, Idaho Department of Fish and Game

John Pierce, Chief Wildlife Scientist, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Arthur Rodriguez, Oregon Conservation Strategy GIS Analyst, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

The Western Governors' Wildlife Council, at the direction of the Governors, is developing policies and tools to assist states in identifying and conserving crucial wildlife habitat and corridors across the region and in coordination with one another. While individual states are compiling wildlife data and information within their borders, the Council's efforts have focused on cooperative work among the western states to improve the regional understanding of areas important to wildlife to better inform land use decisions.

The Wildlife Council recently released the Western Governors' Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT), a cooperative effort of 16 Western states to provide the

public and industry a high-level overview of "crucial habitat" across the West. The tool was launched Dec. 12, 2013, at the [WGA Winter Meeting](#). All 4 states represented by the NWPCC were involved in development of the CHAT. This presentation provides an overview of the CHAT and its components and perspective on its origins and next steps.