WASHINGTON STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Washington Invasive Species Council

# Washington Invasive Species Council Decision Memo

Item **11**

**Meeting Date:** September 24, 2020

**Title:** Interagency Feral Swine Response Plan Update

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**Summary**

This memo summarizes a request for approval of an updated Washington State Interagency Feral Swine Response Plan. If approved, the council will make this report available at InvasiveSpecies.wa.gov.


**Council Action Requested**

This item will be a:

☒ Request for Decision

☐ Request for Direction

## Request for Decision

### Background

Feral swine, or swine not confined in fences, are highly destructive and potentially dangerous animals. Nationally, their spread is blamed for an estimated $1.5 billion worth of damage to crops, wildlife, and the environment. These swine may carry more than 30 diseases and parasites that pose a threat to livestock and humans.

Feral swine tend to forage in areas around rivers and streams, and their trampling and destructive rooting behavior-often compared to rototilling-causes erosion, loss of crops, harm to fish habitat, and helps the spread of noxious weeds. In Washington, they are classified as one of the Washington Invasive Species Council's (WISC) priority species.

There are no known established populations in Washington, though individual feral pigs have been reported in the past. In Idaho, biologists have eradicated a small population in the Bruneau Valley and have no known established populations. Oregon officials estimate that as many as 200 feral swine are in the state, most having invaded from California where feral swine exist in 56 of 58 counties.

Early detection and rapid response are the keys to success. Eradicating small populations and minimizing the impacts of these invasive species are important to protect the economy and natural resources of the region. This response plan, written in collaboration between the Washington Invasive Species Council, Washington State Department of Agriculture, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, and U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services summarizes the interagency approach to addressing newly detected feral swine statewide.

## Decision Points

1. Decision to approve the *Washington State Interagency Feral Swine Response Plan*.

    a. Staff Recommendation: *Approve report. The report was drafted in collaboration with U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, Washington State Department of Agriculture, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.*

## Additional Resources

1. InvasiveSpecies.wa.gov Feral Swine Webpage
2. InvasiveSpecies.wa.gov Squeal on Pigs! Campaign Webpage