

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Budget Change Proposal - Cover Sheet
DF-46 (REV 10/20)

Fiscal Year 2022-23	Business Unit 3600	Department Department of Fish and Wildlife	Priority No.
Budget Request Name 3600-062-BCP-2022-MR		Program 2590	Subprogram

Budget Request Description
Lake Tahoe Wildlife Response Management

Budget Request Summary

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) requests one-time funding of \$2.2 million California Environmental License Plate Fund (ELPF) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 to support Lake Tahoe wildlife management efforts to work with local governments and communities to manage bears and other wildlife in the Lake Tahoe community. These funds are essential due to an increase in health and public safety issues resulting from wildlife seeking out food by raiding garbage cans, entering homes, and associating food with people.

Requires Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Code Section(s) to be Added/Amended/Repealed N/A	
Does this BCP contain information technology (IT) components? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>If yes, departmental Chief Information Officer must sign.</i>	Department CIO	Date

For IT requests, specify the project number, the most recent project approval document (FSR, SPR, S1BA, S2AA, S3SD, S4PRA), and the approval date.

Project No.

Project Approval Document:

Approval Date:

If proposal affects another department, does other department concur with proposal? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Attach comments of affected department, signed and dated by the department director or designee.

Prepared By	Date	Reviewed By	Date
Department Director	Date	Agency Secretary	Date

Department of Finance Use Only

Additional Review: ☐ Capital Outlay ☐ ITCU ☐ FSCU ☐ OSAE ☐ Dept. of Technology

PPBA Krystal Acierito	Date submitted to the Legislature 5/13/2022
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Analysis of Problem

A. Budget Request Summary

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) requests one-time funding of \$2.2 million California Environmental License Plate Fund (ELPF) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 to support Lake Tahoe wildlife management efforts to work with local governments and communities to manage bears and other wildlife in the Lake Tahoe community. These funds are essential due to an increase in health and public safety issues resulting from wildlife seeking out food by raiding garbage cans, entering homes, and associating food with people.

B. Background/History

The Lake Tahoe Basin contains one of the largest populations of black bears in North America juxtaposed to a highly urbanized environment that is home to thousands of residents and used recreationally by thousands more. The result of this juxtaposition is an environment where wildlife, in particular black bears, are in extremely close contact with the public on a regular basis. In recent years there have been numerous incidents from the Lake Tahoe Basin, of black bears entering grocery and convenience stores and interacting with owners and renters as they return to their homes. These are all referred to as habituated behaviors and this proposal would work towards reducing and eliminating these behaviors in black bears.

Between 2020 and 2022, the Department received over 500 reports of wildlife incidents in the counties that cover the Lake Tahoe Basin, the incidents ranged from public safety and property damage to animal welfare. During that same period, the Department received over 50 requests for depredation permits to take wildlife for private property damage.

The Department is mandated with managing wildlife in the California Constitution, Title 14 of the Natural Resources Code, and Fish and Game Code. To fulfill the mandate of the Department and provide service to the public, each of these reports and requests must be responded to. In most cases staff spend multiple hours on each of these reports and requests documenting the issues and providing a solution to the public. Most of these request's stem from the habituated behaviors displayed by wildlife which this proposal seeks to reduce and eliminate through utilization of additional equipment to capture and monitor bears along with funding to implement measures (i.e., bear boxes) to reduce bear incident occurrences.

Workload History

Workload Measure	PY – 4	PY – 3	PY – 2	PY – 1	PY	CY
Requests for Department support or depredation permits	Not tracked	Not tracked	Not tracked	100	200	250+

C. State Level Consideration

This proposal contributes to California's ability to maintain a safe and healthy environment for residents, visitors, and wildlife in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The equipment purchased through this proposal will support the Department's ability to effectively manage wildlife in the Lake Tahoe area. With the increased reporting of incidents and property damage, the Department needs additional resources to provide solutions to reduce and eliminate the incident occurrences. No other state entities would be affected by this proposal.

Analysis of Problem

D. Justification

The Department has identified a significant increase in human-wildlife conflicts in the Lake Tahoe community due to wildlife associating food with people. These human-wildlife interactions are due to the urbanization of the Lake Tahoe community, with both permanent and seasonal residents significantly increasing over the last ten years. At the same time, due to public sentiment and new technology and methods, wildlife management techniques and public response require Department engagement with the public and increased time spent per incident.

The Department is tasked with tracking wildlife incidents in the Lake Tahoe Basin, and every call, request, or email is logged in a database and counted towards the effort required to manage wildlife in the Lake Tahoe community. Within the last couple years, the Department has seen a significant increase with over 500 incident reports and over 50 requests for depredation permits.

This proposal would provide the Department with the needed resources to work with local governments and communities to better manage bears and other wildlife in the Lake Tahoe community and take proactive rather than responsive measures.

The funding support for Lake Tahoe wildlife management efforts is essential for the purpose of:

- Utilizing new technologies and methods to track and manage bears and wildlife.
- Providing local governments resources to address wildlife management issues for their constituents (i.e., bear boxes) in areas of highest incident occurrence.
- Reducing and eliminating habituated behaviors in wildlife.
- Decreasing public safety incidents, sometimes resulting in injury, with wildlife.
- Decreasing interactions between the public and wildlife. Preventing the public from encountering wildlife in situations that could be detrimental to both them and the wildlife.
- Reducing property damage for permanent and seasonal residents who are impacted by damage caused by wildlife.

Per the California Constitution, Title 14 of the Natural Resource Code, and Fish and Game Code, the Department has the responsibility to manage the natural resources of the State for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of the public.

This proposal is focused on addressing current service level gaps measured by Service Based Budgeting by providing a force multiplier effect through the additional resources (e.g., bear boxes, collars, tags) that are intended to reduce the staff time spent on responding to wildlife incidents.

E. Outcomes and Accountability

With the additional resources, the Department will be better positioned to manage wildlife, reduce public health and safety issues, reduce and eliminate habituated behaviors in wildlife, and reduce property damage caused by wildlife.

Analysis of Problem

Projected Outcomes

Workload Measure	CY	BY	BY+1	BY+2	BY+3	BY+4
Incidents	500+	400	300	200	200	200
Depredation permit requests	50	40	30	20	20	20

F. Analysis of All Feasible Alternatives

Alternative 1: Approve one-time funding of \$2.2 million ELPF in FY 2022-23 to support Lake Tahoe wildlife management efforts to work with local governments and communities to manage bears and other wildlife in the Lake Tahoe community for the purpose of decreasing the current health and public safety issues occurring.

Advantages: The Department would have additional resources to manage human-wildlife conflict in the Lake Tahoe community.

Disadvantages: Requires additional resources for the Department.

Alternative 2: Deny the proposal.

Advantages: Would not require additional resources for the Department.

Disadvantages: The Department would continue to struggle with managing and responding to increased reports and incidents with public and wildlife interactions in the Lake Tahoe community. Public harassment and property damage from wildlife would continue to increase because of the lack of resources needed to address problem solving solutions to reduce habituated food behaviors in wildlife.

G. Implementation Plan

Implementation of this proposal would begin on July 1, 2022, or upon approval of the FY 2022-23 Budget.

H. Supplemental Information

The Department will purchase the following equipment: bear traps, radio collars, bear boxes for Tahoe Basin counties including Alpine, and equipment for genetic analysis.

I. Recommendation

The Department recommends approval of Alternative 1: Approve one-time funding of \$2.2 million ELPF in FY 2022-23 to support Lake Tahoe wildlife management efforts to work with local governments and communities to manage bears and other wildlife in the Lake Tahoe community for the purpose of decreasing the current health and public safety issues occurring.

BCP Fiscal Detail Sheet

BCP Title: Lake Tahoe Wildlife Response Management

BR Name: 3600-062-BCP-2022-MR

Budget Request Summary

Operating Expenses and Equipment

Operating Expenses and Equipment	FY22 Current Year	FY22 Budget Year	FY22 BY+1	FY22 BY+2	FY22 BY+3	FY22 BY+4
5340 - Consulting and Professional Services - External	0	2,000	0	0	0	0
54XX - Special Items of Expense	0	245	0	0	0	0
Total Operating Expenses and Equipment	\$0	\$2,245	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Total Budget Request

Total Budget Request	FY22 Current Year	FY22 Budget Year	FY22 BY+1	FY22 BY+2	FY22 BY+3	FY22 BY+4
Total Budget Request	\$0	\$2,245	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Fund Summary

Fund Source

Fund Source	FY22 Current Year	FY22 Budget Year	FY22 BY+1	FY22 BY+2	FY22 BY+3	FY22 BY+4
State Operations - 0140 - California Environmental License Plate Fund	0	2,245	0	0	0	0
Total State Operations Expenditures	\$0	\$2,245	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total All Funds	\$0	\$2,245	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Program Summary

Program Funding

Program Funding	FY22 Current Year	FY22 Budget Year	FY22 BY+1	FY22 BY+2	FY22 BY+3	FY22 BY+4
2590 - Biodiversity Conservation Program	0	2,245	0	0	0	0
Total All Programs	\$0	\$2,245	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0