



Washingtonians for Wildlife Conservation

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September 27, 2023

Assistant Attorney General Joseph Panesko filed a motion to dismiss with the Thurston County Superior Court to dismiss the Washingtonians for Wildlife Conservation lawsuit. That motion was heard by Judge Indu Thomas on Friday, September 15, 2023. Judge Thomas agreed with the defendants and dismissed our lawsuit in its entirety, giving two reasons.

1. That WWC as a non-profit did not have standing to sue; and
2. The Governor had a wide range of discretion in making appointments.

This defies all logic and reason. We based our case on the Builders successfully suing the Governor and the building council. Our attorney, Callie Castillo of Lane Powell, represented the Building Industry. How did the BIAW, a non-profit for political action on behalf of the building industry, like HHC is for the hunters, have standing to sue the Governor and the building council, yet WWC lack the same standing?

The judge also ruled that the Governor's discretion overrules the balance doctrine in RCW 77.04.040. RCW 77.04.040 says that the Governor needs to reach out to all user groups and make sure the Commission is balanced. This ruling just said the Governor's discretion overrides the balance doctrine of the RCW.

Our legal team was outstanding in every way. They were professional, well-prepared, intelligent, and great to work with. I will sing their praises. Callie Castillo is a phenomenal attorney and so is her legal team. Going to court isn't a guarantee of victory. We went to court and we showed the Commission, WDFW, and the animal-right groups that we were willing to sue, something that the hunting community had never done before. Washingtonians for Wildlife Conservation isn't done with the legal route, we have kept Callie Castillo and Lane Powell on retainer for possible future legal action.

WWC isn't just going to stick to the courts. We're the unified sporting community. We're going to recruit new activists and train members of our existing membership base. We are going to teach new techniques to become more effective in the fight. We will always be THE leaders in the outdoor community.

Always outreach. We will always be getting our message out. Our next issue of our newsletter will be coming out in October. We will be getting our message out through social media and message boards. The sporting community needs to hear what WWC is doing.

Mark Pidgeon, President
Washingtonians for Wildlife Conservation