



## WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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July 20, 2020

WER 5141.03  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Rule  
Proposed Management of Conflicts Associated with  
Double-crested Cormorants  
Docket No. FWS-HQ-MB-2019-0103

Public Comments Processing  
Attn: FWS-HQ-MB-2019-0103  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters  
MS: JAO/1N  
5275 Leesburg Pike  
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803

To Whom It May Concern:

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department (Department) has reviewed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Proposed Rule [Docket No. FWS-HQ-MB-2019-0103] and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) concerning Management of Conflicts Associated With Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*; cormorant) throughout the United States. We offer the following comments for your consideration.

The Department supports the proposed EIS and adoption of preferred Alternative A for addressing cormorant depredation concerns. Although cormorant depredation is not currently an issue within Wyoming, cormorants could pose significant mortality to state fisheries resources requiring additional population management. The Department supports the establishment of a new permit option that will afford additional state oversight in cormorant management. Although Wyoming supports preferred Alternative A, we additionally advocate for an Aquatic Depredation Order providing administrative relief and control of cormorant where needed. Re-issuance of an Aquaculture Depredation Order to include western populations would provide administrative relief and additional ability to control cormorants, when necessary, at aquaculture facilities. By allowing flexibility and having multiple options available, the Department would be able to adequately address cormorant depredation issues should they arise. The Department supports the monitoring process outlined within the EIS, ensuring cormorant take across political boundaries will be commensurate with population status.

July 20, 2020

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Zack Walker, Nongame Program Supervisor, at (307) 335-2617.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Losch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amanda" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Losch".

Amanda Losch  
Habitat Protection Supervisor

AL/zw/ct

cc: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Doug Brimeyer, Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
Tim Woolley, Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
Zack Walker, Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
Dirk Miller, Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
Chris Wichmann, Wyoming Department of Agriculture