

## Fwd: cougar release is on hold

Inbox x



Wielgus, Robert B <[wielgus@wsu.edu](mailto:wielgus@wsu.edu)>

10/30/15

to me

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Kantor, Sylvia" <[kantors@wsu.edu](mailto:kantors@wsu.edu)>  
Date: 10/30/2015 4:30 PM (GMT-07:00)  
To: "Wielgus, Robert B" <[wielgus@wsu.edu](mailto:wielgus@wsu.edu)>  
Subject: cougar release is on hold

FYI.

**Sylvia Kantor**

Science Writer

College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences

Washington State University

WSU Downtown Seattle | 901 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 2900 | Seattle, WA 98164

m. [206-859-9283](tel:206-859-9283) | o. [206-770-6063](tel:206-770-6063)

**From:** "Mittelhammer, R C" <[mittelha@wsu.edu](mailto:mittelha@wsu.edu)>

**Date:** Friday, October 30, 2015 at 2:22 PM

**To:** Sylvia Kantor <[kantors@wsu.edu](mailto:kantors@wsu.edu)>

**Cc:** "Kidwell, Kimberlee Kae" <[kidwell@wsu.edu](mailto:kidwell@wsu.edu)>, "Koenig, Richard T" <[richk@wsu.edu](mailto:richk@wsu.edu)>, "Moyer, James William" <[j.moyer@wsu.edu](mailto:j.moyer@wsu.edu)>, "Mulick, Christopher B" <[chris.mulick@wsu.edu](mailto:chris.mulick@wsu.edu)>, Jim Jesernig <[jimjesernig@aol.com](mailto:jimjesernig@aol.com)>

**Subject:** RE: cougar research news release preview

Sylvia:

I pledge to provide you with additional feedback on this as soon as I have had time to interact with some key personnel on the specific topic reported on in the article, as well as some university-level communications policies going forward.

Please note that this has nothing to do with the accuracy or the quality of the release that you constructed – it appears to me to have been very well done. The issue is actually more general and overarching, and relates holistically to the intent, impact, and ramifications of communications that colleges and the university pursue.

Thank you for your patience on this matter.

Ron Mittelhammer  
Interim Co-Provost  
Regents Professor

**From:** Kantor, Sylvia  
**Sent:** Friday, October 30, 2015 2:00 PM  
**To:** Mittelhammer, R C <[mittelha@wsu.edu](mailto:mittelha@wsu.edu)>  
**Cc:** Kidwell, Kimberlee Kae <[kidwell@wsu.edu](mailto:kidwell@wsu.edu)>; Koenig, Richard T <[richk@wsu.edu](mailto:richk@wsu.edu)>; Moyer, James William <[j.moyer@wsu.edu](mailto:j.moyer@wsu.edu)>; Mulick, Christopher B <[chris.mulick@wsu.edu](mailto:chris.mulick@wsu.edu)>; Jim Jesernig <[jimjesernig@aol.com](mailto:jimjesernig@aol.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: cougar research news release preview  
**Importance:** High

Understood. Is there a specific concern I can help address?

sk  
Sylvia Kantor  
Science Writer  
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**From:** "Mittelhammer, R C" <[mittelha@wsu.edu](mailto:mittelha@wsu.edu)>  
**Date:** Friday, October 30, 2015 at 1:57 PM  
**To:** Sylvia Kantor <[kantors@wsu.edu](mailto:kantors@wsu.edu)>  
**Cc:** "Kidwell, Kimberlee Kae" <[kidwell@wsu.edu](mailto:kidwell@wsu.edu)>, "Koenig, Richard T" <[richk@wsu.edu](mailto:richk@wsu.edu)>, "Moyer, James William" <[j.moyer@wsu.edu](mailto:j.moyer@wsu.edu)>, "Mulick, Christopher B" <[chris.mulick@wsu.edu](mailto:chris.mulick@wsu.edu)>, Jim Jesernig <[jimjesernig@aol.com](mailto:jimjesernig@aol.com)>  
**Subject:** FW: cougar research news release preview

Sylvia:

I am asking that you delay this press release – please do NOT release this on Monday.

Our government relations staff have advised that this could potentially create substantial difficulties for CAHNRS and WSU, and we need some additional time to think through this situation and its ramifications.

Thank you.

Ron Mittelhammer  
Interim Co-Provost  
Regents Professor

**From:** Kantor, Sylvia [<mailto:kantors@wsu.edu>]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 30, 2015 8:44 AM

**To:** Kidwell, Kimberlee Kae <[kidwell@wsu.edu](mailto:kidwell@wsu.edu)>; Koenig, Richard T <[richk@wsu.edu](mailto:richk@wsu.edu)>; Moyer, James William <[j.moyer@wsu.edu](mailto:j.moyer@wsu.edu)>  
**Cc:** James R. Pratt <[jrpratt@tricity.wsu.edu](mailto:jrpratt@tricity.wsu.edu)>; Wielgus, Robert B <[wielgus@wsu.edu](mailto:wielgus@wsu.edu)>; Steward, Joanna <[jsteward@wsu.edu](mailto:jsteward@wsu.edu)>; Harris, Therese R <[therese\\_harris@wsu.edu](mailto:therese_harris@wsu.edu)>  
**Subject:** cougar research news release preview

Dear Kim, Rich, and Jim,

Attached is a preview of a release that I plan to issue on Monday about two published studies led by Rob Wielgus on mountain lion predation patterns.

"Wielgus and doctoral student Jon Keehner found that hunting older male cougars appears to increase predation of already declining populations of mule deer and mountain caribou in the Pacific Northwest."

The findings run counter to the popular wisdom about the effects of hunting cougars and could stir controversy, however they are relevant to informing current public policy.

Key points to remember:

- The WSU Large Carnivore Lab is a premier research facility with a solid track record of providing science-based recommendations for the management of bears and mountain lions.
- Many of the Lab's findings have been incorporated into management protocols that have reduced conflicts with humans, improving public safety while increasing the well being of carnivores and threatened wildlife.

Recent background:

Governor Inslee recently reversed a decision made by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission to expand cougar hunting in Washington, in part based on the science presented in these studies. See story reported by Phuong Le in the Seattle Times on October 20, 2015.

<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/environment/inslee-reverses-panels-decision-to-increase-cougar-hunts/>

"Eight groups and a former research director at the state Department of Fish and Wildlife challenged the decision, saying it wasn't based on scientific recommendations.

They pointed to **studies** showing that increased cougar harvests may disrupt the cougars' social structure and could actually increase conflicts between the big cats and humans or livestock."

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Sylvia

**Sylvia Kantor**  
Science Writer  
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<Cougar research release - PREVIEW.docx>



**Jon Keehner** <dr.jon.audio@gmail.com>

10/30/15

to Robert

Wtf? What happened? :)



**Wielgus, Robert B** <wielgus@wsu.edu>

10/31/15

to me

Wsu is afraid to piss off the republicans in wa. I have been muzzled since june. Another feature article on my lab by wsu magazine was shit canned too. My name is voldemort in wa.....he who must never be mentioned. Even my 600,000 grants are not in my name. They are given to another wsu prof...just to hide the fact that I exist at wsu. I no longer attend any wdfw functions either. Everyone still works with me.and funds me ...but behind the curtain. I have become the wizard of oz.