

**From:** [Elizabeth Jones](#)  
**To:** [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Thursday, June 11, 2020 7:03:40 AM

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From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission  
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 11:17:55 PM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

First Name: Michael

Last Name: Welker

Title: Owner

Organization you are affiliated with: New Moon Reptiles - Locality Herps

Email:

City: El Paso

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: My thoughts, ideas and changes were not included in this report. Please see below.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Abolish the White and Black List for non-game animals. This list was created without any natural history data. It was the opinion of Matt Wagner and company. This list is an ex post facto protected list. We already have a protected list. It is called the Endangered and Threatened List. This is a double whammy and an over reach. This takes away the rights of private breeders and keepers to collect, buy, sell, trade and work with reptiles, amphibians and other non-game animals. The private sector is the only group of people working with these "common" species. The private sector collects and breeds locality specific animals (from the same area) and breeds them in captivity. This is called ex-situ conservation. Babies are sold to help cover the costs of their upkeep. No tax dollars are used. This is a safety net for wild populations.

Management of reptiles and amphibians needs to be different than game animals. Non-game are caught, kept alive and bred in captivity. And bought and sold over state lines. Totally different than game animals. We need unique and new regulations not modeled after game management. There is much work to be done here. The biologists who manage these species are educated differently than game biologists. Totally different classes in college. This needs to be fixed. I will be happy to advise TPWD on management.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree