



# 2004 - 2005 Fishing Seasons and Rules Including Steelhead

2nd Edition - July 2004



## RULES

January 2004  
through  
December  
2005

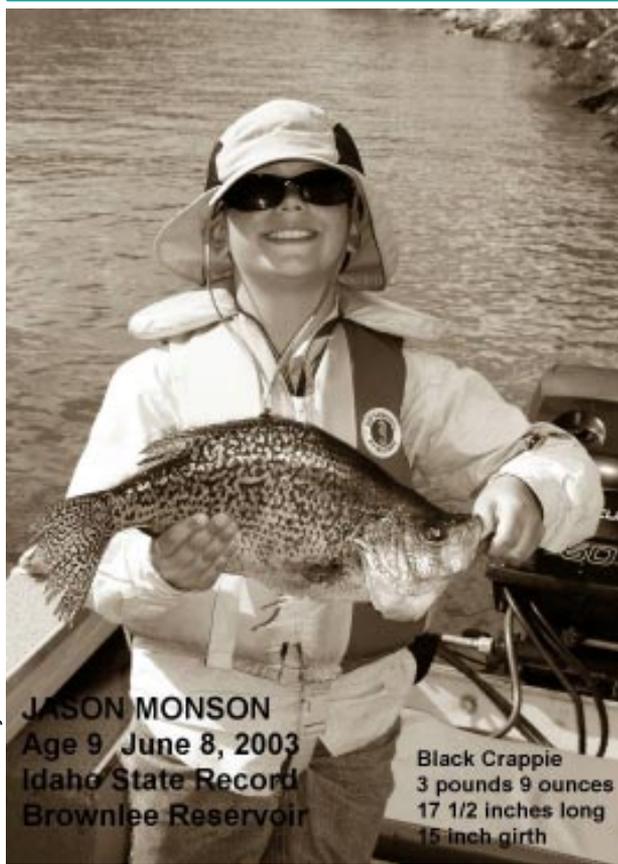


Photo courtesy of David Monson

JASON MONSON  
Age 9 June 8, 2003  
Idaho State Record  
Brownlee Reservoir

Black Crappie  
3 pounds 9 ounces  
17 1/2 inches long  
15 inch girth

- Family Fishing - page 7
- Free Fishing Day - page 5

### Anglers — Can You Identify Bull Trout?

No dark spots  
on fins



Salmon-colored spots  
on body

If you catch a bull trout,  
it **MUST BE RELEASED** immediately,  
unharmful, back into the water.  
**"If you don't know, let it go!"**

Illustration © Joseph R. Tomelleri

### CAN'T FIND YOUR STREAM?

- IF THE WATER OR STREAM SEGMENT OF INTEREST IS NOT LISTED, GENERAL SEASONS AND LIMITS APPLY. See pages 6, 7, 8.
- REGION EXCEPTIONS - INFORMATION ON ALL PAGES WITH BLUE REGIONAL TABS ARE EXCEPTIONS TO THE GENERAL SEASONS, LIMITS AND RULES.
- NO ENTRY UNDER THE SEASON OR POSSESSION LIMIT COLUMNS MEANS GENERAL STATEWIDE RULES APPLY.



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**IDAHO FISH & GAME  
REGULATIONS 2004 AND 2005**

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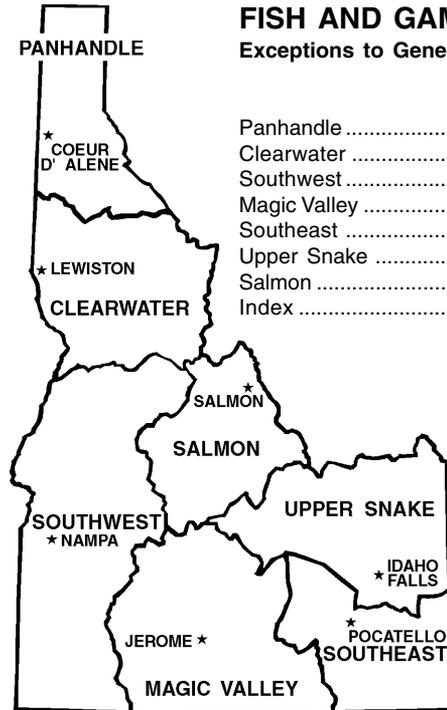
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★ Regional office locations

**HOW TO USE THIS BROCHURE**

1. Review general statewide seasons (page 6).
2. Review general bag and possession limits (page 7).
3. Review the general information section (pages 6-8).
4. Review definitions (pages 9, 10).
5. Consult map above for area of interest.
6. Go to pages 18-60 to look for regionwide and individual water exceptions, where regulations differ from statewide rules.
7. Check mainstem exceptions; tributaries may be included.
8. If you can't find the water you are looking for in the Exceptions, general rules apply.

- **REGION EXCEPTIONS**—Information on all pages with blue regional tabs are **EXCEPTIONS** to the general seasons, limits and rules.
- **IF YOU CAN'T FIND YOUR STREAM, GENERAL SEASONS AND LIMITS APPLY.** See pages 6-8.
- **NO ENTRY UNDER THE SEASON OR DAILY BAG LIMIT COLUMNS MEANS GENERAL STATEWIDE RULES APPLY.**

Costs associated with this publication are available from IDFG in accordance with Section 60-202, Idaho Code. 7-04/300,000/31918

## RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

**Proof of residency** is required before issuance of any resident license. A resident is defined as any person who has been domiciled in the state of Idaho, with a bona fide intent to make this his/her place of permanent abode, for a period of not less than six months immediately preceding the date of application for any license, tag or permit. **Domicile** means the place where an individual has his/her true, fixed, permanent home to which he/she has the intention of returning whenever he/she is absent.

**A driver must produce his/her Idaho driver's license as proof of residency;** or a nondriver must produce suitable proof of residency, such as an Idaho Identification Card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles, documents bearing his/her name and address (not issued by himself/ herself) such as: in the case of a child under 18, identification from a parent; **OR by producing two of the following:** rent receipts or mortgage statements for the previous six months, home utility bills for the previous six months, notarized statement from an employer on business letterhead, or proof of voter registration dated six months prior. **A previous year's hunting license is not proof of residency. Ownership of property or paying of taxes within the state of Idaho is NOT a qualification for residency.**

No one can claim Idaho resident privileges while claiming resident privileges in another state (except military personnel).

A member of the military service of the U. S. or of a foreign country, together with spouse and children under 18 years of age, residing in his/her household, who have been officially transferred, stationed, domiciled, and on active duty in the state of Idaho for a period of 30 days preceding application shall be eligible, as long as such assignment continues, to purchase a resident license. A member of the Idaho National or Air National Guard, domiciled in Idaho for 30 days preceding application shall be eligible, as long as such residency continues, to purchase a resident license.

Idaho residents who are in the U.S. military service, and maintain Idaho as their official state of residence as shown on their current leave and earnings statement, together with spouse and children (under 18 years of age) residing in his/her household shall be eligible to purchase a resident license. The service person himself/herself is eligible for a furlough permit from an Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) office or any vendor in lieu of a license while on leave. Other permits and validations must be attached as required.

## LICENSES

Any person 14 years of age or older must have a valid license or permit to fish for fish, bullfrogs or crayfish in Idaho. No person shall fish without having the proper license on his or her person.

Any license which is defaced, altered or tampered with shall be invalid from the date and time of issuance. It is a violation to use or attempt to use any license that has been defaced, altered or tampered with by means of (but not limited to) erasures and typeovers, or tears in the paper that would indicate a person has attempted to lift up the clear acetate covering over a tag or permit sealed in the tag/permit pouch.

Nonresident children under 14 years of age must be accompanied by the holder of a valid fishing license and their fish must be included in the license holder's limit in order to fish without a license, or they may purchase a nonresident license and have their own limit.

Resident children under 14 years of age need not be accompanied by the holder of a valid fishing license and they may have their own separate limit.

Persons 14 years of age and older who do not qualify as residents must purchase a nonresident license. See page 5.

A resident child under 14 may purchase a permit without a license so that he or she may catch his or her own limit of steelhead or salmon.

See pages 4 and 5 for License, Tag and Permit fees.

Fishing on Indian reservations may require tribal licenses and adherence to tribal regulations.

## FISHING CONTESTS OR TOURNAMENTS:

Any person, organization, club, business, partnership, corporation or other entity that sponsors a fishing contest which is based on the capture of an individual fish, or the size or number of fish captured, must first obtain a fishing contest permit from IDFG. A fishing contest is defined as an event where the total prize value is greater than \$1,000; or the individual entry fee is greater than \$25; or the number of boats is greater than 10 or the number of individual contestants is greater than 20; or there is a live fish weigh-in. Contact your local IDFG office for permit applications. See page 72 for regional phone numbers and addresses.

## FISHING IN BOUNDARY WATERS

**Bear Lake:** The holder of a valid Idaho or Utah fishing license may fish all of Bear Lake EXCEPT in areas CLOSED to all fishing by the respective states. Anglers are subject to the rules and regulations of the state in which they are fishing.

**Snake River Between Idaho And Oregon Or Washington:** The holder of a valid Idaho fishing license may fish the Snake River where it forms the boundary between the states of Idaho and Oregon or Washington, subject to the fish and game laws of Idaho but may not fish from the shore including wading, and may not fish in sloughs or tributaries on the Oregon or Washington side. An Oregon or Washington license holder has the same rights and restrictions with reference to the Idaho side.

Any angler who fishes on the Snake River or any other water forming an Idaho boundary is entitled to have in possession only the limit allowed by one license regardless of the number of licenses in possession.

## RESIDENT 2004-2005 LICENSE, TAG AND PERMIT FEES

As of January 1, 2004. Fees may change without notice. Licenses, permits, validations and tags expire Dec. 31.

### Resident License

<b>Hunting</b> .....	\$ 11.50
Junior Hunting (12-17 years) .....	\$ 6.50
Youth Small Game Hunting (10-11 years) .....	\$6.50
<b>Fishing</b> .....	\$ 23.50
Junior Fishing (14-17 years) .....	\$ 12.50
Disabled Fishing♦ .....	\$ 4.50
Resident Furlough Fishing .....	\$ 16.00
Commercial Fishing♦ (expires June 30) .....	\$ 101.50
<b>Combination Hunting/Fishing</b> .....	\$ 30.50
Senior Combination Hunting/Fishing (65 years old, 5-year residency) .....	\$ 4.50
Junior Combination Hunting/Fishing (14-17 years) .....	\$ 16.00
Disabled Combination Hunting/Fishing♦ .....	\$4.50
Resident Military Furlough Combination Hunting/Fishing .....	\$ 16.00
<b>Sportsman's Package*</b> .....	\$ 107.00
<b>Trapping</b> ♦ (expires June 30) .....	\$ 26.50
Juvenile♦ (through 17 years) .....	\$ 6.50
<b>Taxidermist/Fur Buyer</b> ♦ (expires June 30) .....	\$ 36.50

### Resident Tags

<b>Deer</b> .....	\$ 18.00
Jr./Sr./DAV Deer▲ .....	\$9.75
<b>Elk</b> .....	\$ 28.50
Jr./Sr./DAV Elk▲ .....	\$15.00
<b>Bear</b> .....	\$ 10.50
Jr./Sr./DAV Bear▲ .....	\$ 6.00
<b>Mountain Lion</b> .....	\$ 10.50
<b>Turkey</b> .....	\$ 18.00
Jr./Sr. DAV Turkey .....	\$9.75
<b>Antelope</b> (general season is archery only) .....	\$ 28.50

- ▲ Valid with senior combination license (age 65 & older), junior combination, junior hunting and disabled combination class V.
- ♦ These licenses available ONLY at IDFG offices.

**\*NOTICE:** The Sportsman's Package (RESIDENTS ONLY) includes all rights and privileges associated with a Resident Adult Combination License plus tags for deer, elk, bear, mountain lion, turkey, salmon and steelhead. Archery and muzzleloader are validated on the license.

## ANGLER NOTICE: FREE FISHING DAY IS JUNE 12, 2004 AND JUNE 11, 2005

### PERMITS AND VALIDATIONS

The licensing system will validate your license for two-pole fishing, archery, muzzleloader and sage/sharp-tailed grouse. Salmon, steelhead, and WMA pheasant permits and the 3-day salmon/steelhead license must be sealed in a plastic pouch and harvest information recorded on the back. All tags must also be sealed in the appropriate plastic pouch. The Federal Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program Validation is required for all migratory bird hunters.

<b>Archery Permit</b> .....	\$ 16.50
<b>Muzzleloader Permit</b> .....	\$ 16.50
<b>Hound Hunter Permit</b> .....	\$ 11.50
<b>Bear Bait Permit</b> ♦ (available 3/1) .....	\$ 11.50
<b>Salmon Permit</b> .....	\$ 11.50
<b>Steelhead Permit</b> .....	\$ 11.50
<b>Two-pole Fishing Permit</b> (valid for all fish) .....	\$ 12.50

<b>Wildlife Management Area Pheasant Permit</b> (17 & older) .....	\$ 21.50
<b>Federal Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program Validation</b> (dove, duck, goose, coot, sandhill crane and common snipe) .....	\$ 1.50
<b>Sage/Sharp-tailed Grouse Permit</b> .....	\$ 1.50
<b>Falconry Permit (3-year)</b> .....	\$ 26.50
<b>Controlled Hunt Application Fee</b> .....	\$ 6.00
<b>Controlled Hunt Permit Fee</b> .....	\$ 7.50

### SPECIAL RESIDENT PERMITS

**Handicapped Archery Permit, \$1.50:** Permit for use of crossbow during archery-only seasons. Available at IDFG offices only. Disability must be certified by a medical doctor on an IDFG form.

A disabled person is defined as one who is certified as eligible for: federal supplemental security income (SSI); social security disability income (SSDI); railroad retirement board disability; a nonservice-connected veterans pension; or a service-connected veterans disability benefit with 40 percent or more disability. Bring documentation issued within the past year when applying. DAV tags available only to disabled veterans.

**NOTE:** The following licenses, permits, etc., are available ONLY at IDFG offices: Commercial licenses, duplicate tags, documents that require proof of disability, lifetime license (renewals beginning second year of ownership), bear baiting permits and bobcat pelt tags (pelts are tagged at regional offices and the Hunter Education Center only).

### RESIDENT LIFETIME LICENSE CERTIFICATES

- Regardless of your age, the purchase of a lifetime license could be the best investment you ever make. Lifetime combination hunting and fishing licenses authorize all privileges associated with a corresponding annual license.
- These licenses are valid for the lifetime of the license holder and are available to all residents of the state of Idaho.
- They can only be purchased at IDFG headquarters and regional offices.

Applicant Age	Combination	Hunting	Fishing
0 through 1 year	\$ 726.50	\$ 251.50	\$ 551.50
2 through 50 years	\$ 1,016.50	\$ 351.50	\$ 771.50
51 and Older	\$ 581.50	\$ 201.50	\$ 441.50

# NONRESIDENT 2004-2005 LICENSE, TAG, AND PERMIT FEES

As of January 1, 2004. Fees may change without notice. Licenses, permits, validations and tags expire Dec. 31.

## Nonresident Licenses

<b>Hunting</b> .....	\$ 128.50
Small Game Hunting ☆ (upland & migratory game birds, turkey, cottontail & pygmy rabbits only) ..	\$ 73.50
Not valid for pheasant first 5 days of pheasant season)	
Nongame Gun (January-August) .....	\$ 26.50
<b>Fishing</b> .....	\$ 74.50
Junior Fishing (14-17 years) .....	\$ 12.50
Daily Fishing (1st Day) .....	\$ 10.50
(each consecutive day at initial time of purchase add) .....	\$ 4.00
3-Day Salmon or Steelhead (includes 3-day general fishing license) .....	\$ 28.50
Commercial Fishing♦ (expires June 30) .....	\$ 201.50
<b>Combination Hunting/Fishing</b> .....	\$ 181.50
<b>Trapping</b> ♦ (adult & juvenile-expires June 30) .....	\$ 251.50
<b>Taxidermist/Fur Buyer</b> ♦ (expires June 30) .....	\$ 126.50
<b>Shooting Preserve</b> .....	\$ 11.50

## Nonresident Tags

<b>Deer</b> .....	\$ 235.00
<b>Southeast Deer</b> * (units 75, 76, 77, 78) .....	\$ 241.50
Junior Mentored Deer .....	\$ 9.75
<b>Elk</b> .....	\$ 338.50
Junior Mentored Elk .....	\$ 15.00
<b>Bear</b> .....	\$ 235.00
Reduced Bear ■ .....	\$ 31.50
2nd Bear ■ .....	\$ 31.50
Junior Mentored Bear .....	\$ 6.00
<b>Mountain Lion</b> .....	\$ 235.00
Reduced Mountain Lion ■ .....	\$ 31.50
Second Mountain Lion ■ .....	\$ 31.50
<b>Turkey</b> .....	\$ 61.50
Junior Mentored Turkey .....	\$ 9.75
<b>Antelope</b> (general season is archery only) .....	\$ 235.00

- ☆ All validations, permits and or tags apply.
- See Big Game Seasons brochure for information.
- ♦ These licenses available ONLY at IDFG offices.

**\*NOTICE: Southeast Deer tag required for hunting during a general deer season in Units 75, 76, 77 and 78. These tags are issued through a limited entry drawing. Applications for 2005 tags will be accepted from December 1, 2004 through January 31, 2005. For more information or an application, contact the Licensing Section at (208) 334-3717 or visit [www.fishandgame.idaho.gov](http://www.fishandgame.idaho.gov)**

## ANGLER NOTICE: FREE FISHING DAY IS JUNE 12, 2004 AND JUNE 11, 2005.

**No fishing license required to fish on Free Fishing Day.  
All other fishing rules and bag limits apply. See page 44.**

## PERMITS AND VALIDATIONS

*The licensing system will validate your license for two-pole fishing, archery, muzzleloader, and sage/sharp-tailed grouse. Salmon, steelhead, and WMA pheasant permits and the 3-day salmon/steelhead license must be sealed in a plastic pouch and harvest information recorded on the back. All tags must also be sealed in a plastic pouch. The Federal Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program Validation is required for all migratory bird hunters.*

<b>Archery Permit</b> .....	\$ 16.50	<b>Wildlife Management Area Pheasant Permit</b>	
<b>Muzzleloader Permit</b> .....	\$ 16.50	(17 & older) .....	\$ 21.50
<b>Hound Hunter Permit</b> .....	\$ 128.50	<b>Federal Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information</b>	
<b>Bear Bait Permit</b> ♦ (available 3/1) .....	\$ 11.50	<b>Program Validation</b> (dove, duck, goose, coot, sandhill crane and common snipe) .....	\$ 1.50
<b>Salmon Permit</b> (not valid with daily license) .....	\$ 11.50	<b>Sage/Sharp-tailed Grouse Permit</b> .....	\$ 1.50
<b>Steelhead Permit</b> (not valid with daily license) .....	\$ 11.50	<b>Controlled Hunt Application Fee</b> .....	\$ 6.00
<b>Two-pole Fishing Permit</b> (valid for all fish) .....	\$ 12.50	<b>Controlled Hunt Permit Fee</b> .....	\$ 7.50

For regional Fish and Game contact numbers and license information, see page 72.



# GENERAL INFORMATION

## FISHING SEASONS

**IF YOU CAN'T FIND YOUR STREAM, POND OR LAKE LISTED BY NAME, OR AS TRIBUTARIES OF A LARGER WATER IN THE REGIONAL EXCEPTIONS PAGES, GENERAL SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS (pages 6-8) APPLY.**

### GENERAL SEASONS

- **APPLY TO ALL WATERS OF THE STATE EXCEPT AS LISTED IN "REGION EXCEPTIONS."**
- **LAKES, PONDS and RESERVOIRS (including alpine lakes):** Extends ONLY to the edge of flat waters, excluding small, unnamed irrigation diversion ponds, beaver ponds and mill ponds—**OPEN ALL YEAR.**
- **DITCHES and CANALS:** Man-made structures used to transport water for irrigation or hydropower purposes—**OPEN ALL YEAR.**
- **RIVERS and STREAMS:** Small, unnamed irrigation diversion ponds, beaver ponds and mill ponds have the same season as the river or stream on which they are located—**Open Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend through November 30.**

**2004: May 29 - November 30.**

**2005: May 28 - November 30.**

### SPECIAL SEASONS

- **WINTER STREAM SEASON:**  
Trout — catch-and-release, whitefish and brook trout may be harvested. Fishing gear or bait restrictions which apply to a river or stream section during the general season, also apply during the winter stream season. See regional exceptions for waters open to winter stream fishing.
  - **Dates: January 1 to March 31 and December 1 to December 31**
- **STEELHEAD SEASON:** See pages 61-63
- **SALMON SEASON (Anadromous):** Seasons for anadromous (ocean-going) salmon are closed unless opened by special rule, which is published separately. Contact any IDFG office for information.

**Whitefish and brook trout may also be taken in any waters during seasons open for other species, including reduced bag limit or size restricted waters, and catch-and-release waters.**

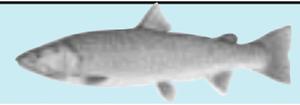
**Bullfrogs, crayfish, and nongame fish may be taken ONLY during the season set for the taking of other game fish in those waters.**

### SEASON EXCEPTIONS

Listed under "Region Exceptions" you will see a number of waters with season dates different from the general statewide stream and lake seasons. While they add complexity to the rules, they are designed to protect fish populations during vulnerable periods. The protection is needed to maintain or restore fish populations and to provide a diversity of fishing opportunities. Some of the special seasons listed under Region Exceptions and their purpose are:

- **July 1 Stream Opener:** Late opening to protect cutthroat trout which spawn later than rainbow trout.
- **July 1 Opener for Bass:** Designed to reduce removal of large bass during the vulnerable spring period and to reduce the overall annual harvest to provide a "quality" size structure — normally accompanied by other regulations.
- **August 31 Stream Closure:** To protect spawning kokanee, bull trout and young cutthroat and Kamloops rainbow trout in nursery tributaries moving to large lakes during low flow conditions.
- **CLOSED TO FISHING:** A last resort restriction in important spawning and nursery streams for species with critically low populations.

# GENERAL BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS



The following bag and possession limits apply statewide **except** as modified in "REGION EXCEPTIONS," listed on pages 18-60.

- Steelhead have separate rules, see pages 61-63.
- Bag and possession limits are defined on page 9.

## FAMILY FISHING WATERS

In response to anglers requests for more family-oriented fishing opportunities and simplified rules, IDFG has developed new Family Fishing Water Rules. These are designed to be easy to use and waters were selected which provide settings for a great fishing trip for families, kids and first-time anglers.

- Year-round seasons
- General six fish limit for trout, bass, walleye and pike
- No bag limits on other species
- No length limits
- Standard fishing gear

See Region maps for Family Fishing Waters near you.

## SPECIES

## BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS

<b>BASS</b> (Largemouth and Smallmouth) .....	<b>6</b> —	In the aggregate of both species, <b>NONE</b> under 12 inches.
<b>BROOK TROUT</b> .....	<b>25</b>	
<b>BULL TROUT</b> .....	<b>NONE</b>	— There is no harvest season for bull trout. Any bull trout caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.
<b>BURBOT</b> (Ling) .....	<b>NONE</b>	— There is no harvest season for burbot. Any burbot caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately.
<b>NORTHERN PIKE</b> .....	<b>6</b>	
<b>SALMON</b> (Anadromous) .....		Salmon rules are issued in separate brochures. See pages 61-63.
<b>STEELHEAD</b> (Anadromous) .....		
<b>STURGEON</b> .....	<b>NONE</b>	— There is no harvest season for sturgeon. Any sturgeon caught may not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. Barbless hooks required. (See page 29. <i>Unlawful to fish for sturgeon in the Kootenai River.</i> <b>NOTE:</b> Federal rules prohibit the attempted take of Kootenai River sturgeon.
<b>TIGER MUSKIE</b> .....	<b>2</b> —	<b>NONE</b> under 40 inches.
<b>TROUT</b> (does not include brook or bull trout) .....	<b>6</b> —	In the aggregate of all trout species (see Magic Valley, Southeast and Upper Snake Regions for special cutthroat trout restrictions).
Includes the following trout family fishes:		
• grayling	• brown	• lake (Mackinaw)
• cutthroat	• rainbow	• golden
• splake	• sunapee trout	• trout hybrids
and the landlocked forms of chinook, coho, Atlantic and kokanee (blueback) salmon.		
<b>WALLEYE and SAUGER</b> .....	<b>6</b> —	In the aggregate of both species.
<b>WHITEFISH</b> .....	<b>25</b>	
<b>NONGAME SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN</b> .....	<b>NONE</b>	— May not be taken or possessed.
• sandroller		
• leatherside chub		
• Pacific lamprey		
• Shoshone, Wood River, and Bear Lake sculpin		
All species other than those listed above .....	<b>NO LIMIT</b>	— Includes bullfrogs and crayfish (see game fish page 9).

## SIZE AND BAG LIMITS

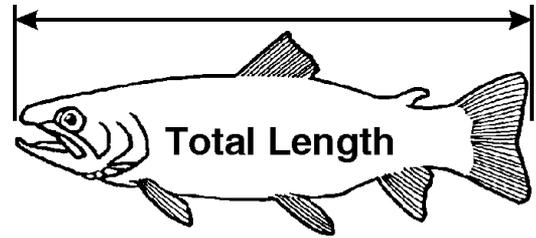
The length of species with special size limits shall be determined by measuring the distance between the tip of the nose or jaw and the tip of the tail fin. Size and bag limits are an important means of increasing the overall size of fish in a lake or stream or of limiting harvest so enough survive to spawn. Size and bag limit restrictions don't work overnight though. It may take several years to see improvement in fish populations.

Managing to provide different types of fishing opportunities calls for different combinations of size and bag limits. Some of those are:

- **Family Fishing Waters:** Simplified fishing rules with general bag limits, no length limits, and no special gear or bait restrictions. Apply to waters which are well suited to new anglers, families and kids.
- **General Management:** Uncomplicated fishing with general bag limits, no gear or bait restrictions, no size limits on trout, and a 12-inch minimum size limit on bass. Many of these waters are stocked with harvestable-sized hatchery trout.
- **Wild Trout:** A reduced bag limit of 2 trout is used to de-emphasize harvest and maintain wild trout populations. No size limits, gear, or bait restrictions.
- **Quality Management:** Used where the goal is to catch more and larger fish by giving up some harvest opportunity. A bag limit of 2 fish (trout or bass) and various size limits such as a 14- or 16-inch minimum or 12- to 16-inch protected range. May include gear or bait restrictions to reduce the mortality of released fish.
- **Trophy Management:** Used where the goal is to catch large trophy fish but not necessarily harvest any. May be catch-and-release or a bag limit of 2 fish (for both trout and bass) combined with a 20-inch minimum size. May include gear or bait restrictions.
- **Special Cutthroat Trout Rules:** Because the cutthroat trout, our state fish, is so easily overfished, various special rules are imposed for them. Many waters throughout the state have catch-and-release, or restrictive bag or length limits, or other rules to protect cutthroat trout.

## FISH SALVAGE

Fish salvage may be authorized when fish populations are threatened by water shortages or other causes. No salvage of fish from public waters will be allowed without specific Commission order or without authorization from the Director or the Regional Supervisor. In a salvage season, fish may be taken by snagging, spearing, archery, dipnet, seines, or with the hands. Regional authorization allows public fish salvage without regard to usual possession limits. Use of toxic chemicals, explosives, firearms, or electric current is prohibited. A valid fishing license is required. Anglers are reminded that access along canal banks and salvage fishing in most canals and ditches requires prior permission from irrigation companies.



## RELEASING FISH

Releasing fish is a good way to increase your enjoyment and prolong your fishing. Many miles of rivers and streams in Idaho have CATCH-AND-RELEASE rules. Other bodies of water have rules which require the release of certain sizes of fish or have reduced bag limits. These rules have been very successful in providing better fishing for large trout and bass.

All anglers can increase fish survival by releasing fish properly through the following procedures:

- Do not handle fish with dry hands.
- Do not squeeze the fish.
- Do not touch the gills or hold fish by gill covers.
- Leave the fish in the water while removing the hook; needlenose pliers or forceps are helpful.
- If the hook cannot be easily removed, cut the leader. The hook will rust out rapidly.
- If the fish is exhausted, hold it in a swimming position in the water and move it back and forth gently until you release it.
- Avoid excessive and unnecessary handling of the fish, and avoid removing fish from water.
- Avoid laying fish on a hard surface.





## DEFINITIONS

**ARTIFICIAL FLY:** Any fly made entirely of rubber, wood, metal, glass, feather, fiber, or plastic by the method known as fly tying. Bait of any kind may not be used with artificial flies when fishing artificial flies and lures-only waters.

**ARTIFICIAL LURE:** Any device made entirely of rubber, wood, metal, glass, feather, fiber, or plastic with hook or hooks attached. Bait of any kind may not be used with artificial lures when fishing artificial flies and lures-only waters.

**BAG LIMIT:** The maximum number of fish that may be lawfully harvested by any one person in one day. The term "bag limit" shall be construed to be an individual, independent effort and shall not be interpreted in any manner as to allow an individual to take more fish than their "bag limit" and including them in filling the "bag limit" of another. The bag and possession limits are equal, except where listed in region exceptions and for salmon and steelhead.

**BAIT:** Organic substances, other than rubber, wood, feather, fiber, or plastic, attached to a hook to attract fish. Bait includes insects, insect larvae, worms, dead fish, fish parts, any other animal or vegetable matter, or scented synthetic materials. (Live fish are prohibited as bait in Idaho.) See definition of NO BAIT . . . , see also "Use of Bait," page 10.

**BARBLESS HOOK:** A fishhook without barbs or on which barbs have been bent completely closed.

**CATCH-AND-RELEASE:** Effort, by permitted methods, to catch or attempt to catch a fish or species of fish is lawful, with the restriction that any fish or species of fish so caught must be released immediately, unharmed, back to the water. NOTE: Species of fish not specifically listed as catch-and-release may be harvested under their appropriate limits.

**CONFLUENCE OF A STREAM OR RIVER:** The point where two rivers or streams come together.

**ELECTRIC MOTORS ONLY:** When fishing waters listed "electric motors only," gas (internal combustion) motors may be attached to the boat; but use of the gas motor is prohibited.

**FISHING:** Any effort made to take, kill, injure, capture, or catch any fish, crayfish, or bullfrog.

**FLOAT TUBE:** A floating device which suspends a single occupant, from the seat down, in the water, and is not propelled by oars, paddles or motors.

**FLY FISHING:** Fishing with a fly rod, fly reel, fly line, and artificial flies.

**GAME FISH:** Brook, brown, bull, cutthroat, golden, lake (Mackinaw), rainbow (including steelhead), splake and

sunapee trout; trout hybrids; chinook, coho, Atlantic and kokanee (blueback) salmon; grayling; whitefish; cisco; crappie; perch; bass; catfish; bullhead; sunfish; sturgeon; northern pike; tiger muskie; walleye and sauger; and burbot (ling). Bullfrogs and crayfish are also defined as game fish.

**HARVEST:** Reduce a fish to possession.

**HOOK:** A bent wire device, for the catching of fish, to which one, two, or three points may be attached to a single shank. Up to five (5) hooks per line may be used, except where specifically prohibited.

**HYBRID:** The offspring of two different species of fish. Hybrid in this rule book refers to crosses between cutthroat and rainbow trout. Cutthroat -rainbow trout hybrids display variable color and markings, representing a range of shared characteristics from rainbow and cutthroat trout. All hybrids show spotting patterns similar to rainbow trout with spots more evenly distributed from head to tail and above and below the lateral line. See page 14.

**ICE FISHING:** Fishing through an opening broken or cut through the ice.

**LENGTH:** The length between the tip of the nose or jaw and the tip of the tail fin.

**MOTOR:** Includes electric and internal combustion motors. See Electric Motors Only.

**MOUTH OF RIVER OR STREAM:** The place where a river or stream enters a larger body of water.

**NO BAIT:** Requires the use of artificial flies or lures, with one barbless hook ONLY per fly or lure.

**NO MOTORS:** Fishing from a boat with a motor attached is prohibited.

**NON-GAME FISH:** Any fish not specifically defined as a "game fish" above.

**POSSESSION LIMIT:** Maximum number of fish that may be lawfully in possession of any person. "Possession limit" shall apply to fish while in the field or being transported to the final place of consumption or storage. All fish that are hooked, landed and not immediately released shall be counted in the possession limit of the person hooking the fish. The bag and possession limits are equal, except where listed in region exceptions and for salmon and steelhead.

**RESERVOIR:** The flat water level existing at any time within a reservoir basin. Unless noted otherwise, a stream flowing through the drawn down portion of a reservoir is not considered part of the reservoir.

(continued)

**SEASON LIMIT:** The maximum number of fish that may be lawfully taken in any declared season.

**SNAGGING:** It is unlawful to take or attempt to take any game fish by snagging. Snagging shall mean the taking or attempting to take a fish by use of a hook or lure in any manner or method other than enticing or attracting a fish to strike with, and become hooked in, its mouth or jaw. Game fish which are hooked other than in the mouth or jaw must be released immediately.

**STANDARD FISHING GEAR:** Includes the use of a hook and line to catch fish. May also include the use of a rod and reel.

**STEELHEAD:** Rainbow trout longer than 20 inches in length in the Snake River drainage below Hells Canyon Dam, the Salmon River drainage (excluding lakes and the Lemhi and the Pahsimeroi rivers), and the Clearwater River drainage (excluding that portion above Dworshak Dam, and lakes).

Rainbow trout longer than 20 inches in length with a clipped adipose fin (as evidenced by a healed scar) are defined as steelhead in the Snake River from Hells Canyon Dam upstream to Oxbow Dam, and in the Boise River from its mouth upstream to Barber Dam, and in the Payette River from its mouth upstream to Black Canyon Dam during steelhead seasons.

**TRIBUTARY:** A stream flowing into a larger stream or lake.

**UNATTENDED LINE:** A line not under the immediate surveillance of the angler.

**UNPROTECTED NONGAME FISH:** All fish species other than game fish and protected species of special concern.



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**THE FOLLOWING ARE CLARIFICATIONS ACCORDING TO STATUTE OR COMMISSION RULES. PLEASE CONSULT THE IDAHO ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES ACT FOR EXACT WORDING AND COMPLETE LISTING:**

**Archery and Spear Fishing:** Fishing with a bow and arrow, crossbow, spear or mechanical device, excluding firearms, is permitted only in the taking of bullfrogs and unprotected nongame fish, and only in those waters during the season set for the taking of game fish.

**Bait Restricted:** It is unlawful to fish with bait in waters designated as artificial flies and lures only, fly fishing only, or no bait.

**Fishing Gear:** It is unlawful to fish in any waters of Idaho with more than one handline or pole with a line attached; or with two poles or lines without a two-pole validation; or with more than five poles or lines while ice fishing; or by archery, spearfishing, snagging, hands, and netting except as permitted. Not more than five hooks may be attached per line. The line or lines must be attended by the person fishing. See two-pole validation below.

**Fishing Shelters:** Any enclosure or shelter which is left unattended overnight on the ice of any water statewide shall have the owners' name, telephone number, and current address legibly marked on two opposing sides of the enclosure or shelter.

**Gaff Hook:** It is unlawful to land fish of any species with a gaff hook except through a hole cut or broken in the ice in waters which have no length restrictions or harvest closures for that species.

**Molesting Fish:** It is unlawful to molest any fish by shooting at it with a firearm or pellet gun, striking at it with a club, hands, rocks, or other objects, building obstructions for catching fish, or chasing fish up or downstream in any manner.

**Snagging:** It is unlawful to snag game fish, unless otherwise stated by Commission rules/exceptions. Snagging of unprotected nongame fish species is permitted.

**Trapping and Seining Minnows or Crayfish:** It is lawful to take the young of unprotected nongame fish, crayfish, and yellow perch with a minnow net, seine, or up to five traps, provided the seine or net does not exceed four feet in length or width, and the minnow or crayfish trap does not exceed 18 inches in length or 12 inches in diameter or width. If the trap is of irregular dimension, but its volume does not exceed the volume of an 18" x 12" x 12" trap, it is also lawful to use. All fish so taken must immediately be killed except where stated otherwise. All traps must have a tag attached bearing the owner's name and address. Minnows and crayfish may only be taken during the season set for the taking of game fish in those waters.

**Two-Pole Validation:** A person who has a valid resident or nonresident fishing license may purchase a two-pole validation. This validation authorizes the license holder to use two poles or rods at the same time on waters and during seasons specified by Commission Rule. Valid for all fish including salmon and steelhead.

**Use of Bait:** It is unlawful to use live fish as bait, except that live crayfish and bullfrogs may be used if caught on the body of water being fished. See trapping above.

**Use of Hands:** It is lawful to take bullfrogs and crayfish with the hands.

## IT IS UNLAWFUL

- No person shall transport for another or accept as a gift any game fish unless a proxy statement signed by the taker accompanies the fish, showing the number and kinds, the date taken, the taker's name, address, and fishing license number. See page 43 for an example. No person may claim ownership of more fish than allowed by the possession limit.
- To fish in any water statewide having special limits while having fish in possession in excess of the special limits.
- To fish through a hole cut or broken in the ice that is larger than 10 inches in diameter EXCEPT as listed under Regional Exceptions.
- To refuse to produce a license or fish for inspection upon request of a conservation officer.
- To fail to stop and report at any check station established to inspect licenses and fish and game.
- To put any substance not attached to a hook into the water for the purpose of attracting fish (chumming).
- To waste game fish.
- To have in the field or in transit any trout, char, salmon (coho, kokanee, chinook), steelhead, grayling, tiger muskie, or bass from which the head or tail has been removed.
- To use chemicals, poisons, electric current, or explosives in attempting to catch or destroy fish.
- To sell or buy fish or parts of fish taken from Idaho waters EXCEPT as provided by Idaho Code.
- To transport fish harvested from a private pond without written permission from the owner.
- To ship any fish by commercial carrier unless the outside of the package is marked showing the number and kinds of fish, and the name, address and fishing license number of the person who caught the fish.
- To take fish on or from any state or federal fish hatchery property in Idaho, EXCEPT as posted.
- To destroy, disturb, or remove any traps belonging to others.
- To leave a fishing line unattended.
- To release or allow the release of any species of live fish (including crayfish), or fish eggs, in the state of Idaho without a permit from the Director of IDFG, EXCEPT no permission is required when fish or crayfish are being released at the same time and place where caught (see page 37).

If you suspect an illegal fish release has occurred or may occur, report it to the nearest IDFG representative, or call the CAP toll-free number 1-800-632-5999. Callers do not have to reveal their names. A reward may be paid if an arrest is made or a citation is issued to the suspected violator.

- To possess, transport or cause to be transported within the state of Idaho any live fish or fish eggs without having first obtained a permit from the Director of IDFG. However, no permit is required to:
  - Keep game fish, that can legally be reduced to possession, alive and in possession in a live well, net or on a stringer while at the body of water from which they were taken. However, anadromous salmon and steelhead must either be immediately killed or released.
  - Possess ornamental or tropical aquarium fish of varieties commonly accepted for interstate shipment.
  - Transport fish between licensed commercial fish facilities.
- To have a fish-bearing pond for their own personal use without a private pond permit (available from IDFG regional offices, see page 72 for addresses and phone numbers).
- To import into the state any live aquatic bait (minnows, leeches, salamanders, waterdogs, etc.) without a permit from the director of IDFG.

*Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming and Idaho have entered into a "Wildlife Violator Compact." This means if your hunting, fishing or trapping license is revoked by any of the member states, all the remaining states will revoke the same license or privilege for the same time period. In addition, any nonresident who does not satisfy the requirements of an Idaho citation will have his/her hunting and fishing license revoked in their home state until those requirements are satisfied.*

IDFG adheres to all applicable state and federal laws and regulations related to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, or handicap. If you feel you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility of IDFG, or if you desire further information, please write to: Idaho Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID 83707; or the Office of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Interior, Washington D.C. 20240.

This publication will be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Department of Fish and Game for assistance.

Information in this brochure summarizes the rules and is the official proclamation of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission for the taking of fish. The official rules are available from the Office of Administrative Rules, Department of Administration, Statehouse Mail, Boise, ID 83720, and may be reviewed in some libraries. Maps are for general reference only.

## NAVIGABILITY AND PUBLIC ACCESS

(Refer to Idaho Code 36-1601)

Navigable streams are defined as any stream which, in its natural high-water condition, will float logs or any other commercial or floatable commodity, or is capable of being navigated by oar or motor propelled small craft for pleasure or commercial purposes. Navigable streams are recognized as public transportation corridors, thus members of the public have the right to use the corridor, provided they enter and exit the corridor at a public right of way, and remain within the corridor. Many navigable streams flow through private property, thus it is important that anglers know their rights and responsibilities when fishing in navigable waters that flow through private property.

When fishing in navigable streams bordered by private property:

- You must stay within the normal high-water marks of the stream, unless you have landowner permission to get out on the bank, or have no other means of getting around an obstruction in the stream (such as a fence or diversion dam).
- When getting outside of the stream to go around an obstruction, take the shortest, most direct route around the obstruction to get back in the stream.
- Do not allow pets or children to trespass on adjacent private property, without landowner permission.
- You may enter and exit navigable streams at other public rights of way, such as county road bridges.
- **ASK FIRST!** Always get landowner permission before crossing private lands outside of a public right of way.

### Navigability and Public Access

#### TRESPASS LAW

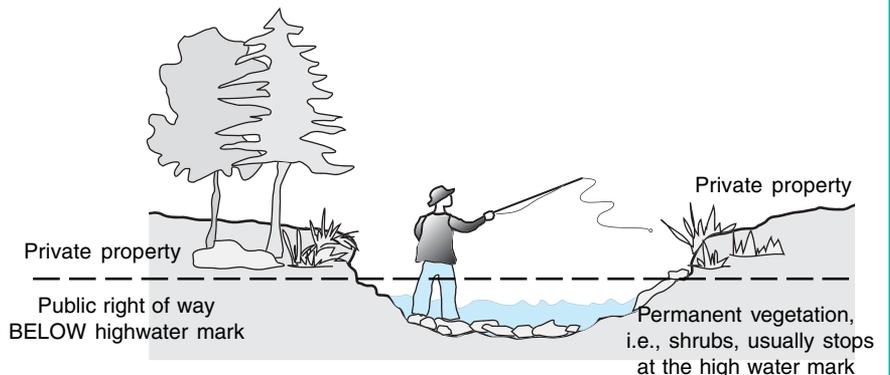
No person may enter private land to hunt, fish or trap without permission if the land is either cultivated or posted with legible "No Trespassing" signs. Proper posting means either signs, 100 square inches of fluorescent orange paint or an entire fluorescent orange metal fence post every 660 feet around the property and at reasonable access points.

It is unlawful for anyone to post public land that is not held under an exclusive control lease. Conviction of trespass on posted private property carries a **mandatory one-year revocation** of hunting/fishing/trapping licenses.

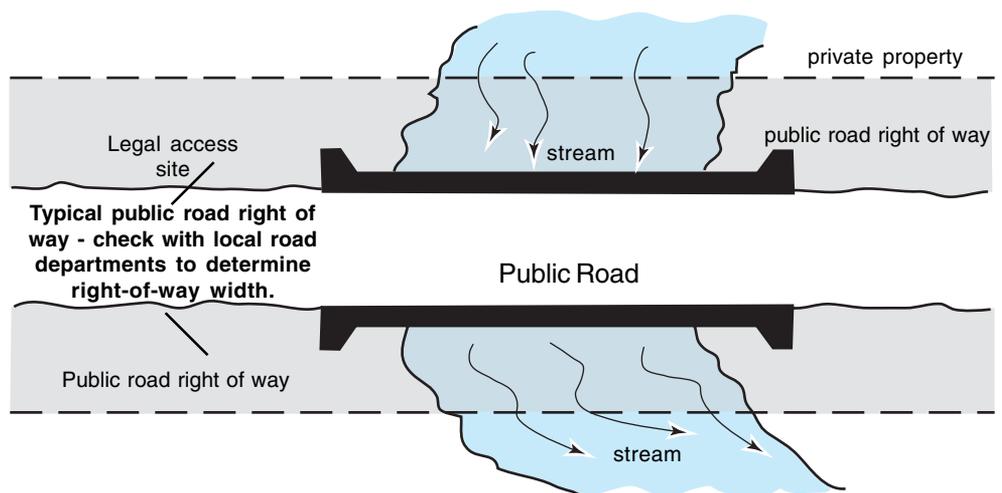
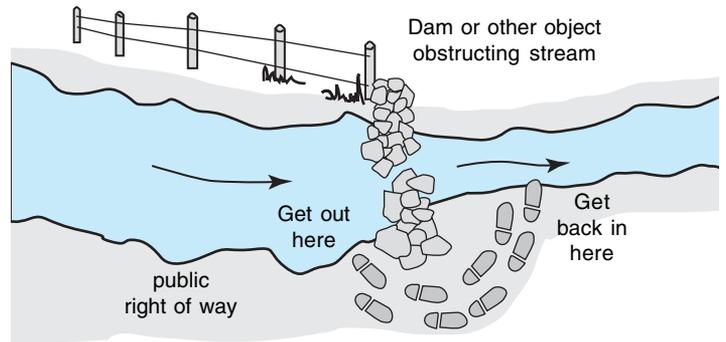
#### ASK FIRST!

*Be courteous, and respect landowners and their private property rights - do not*

- trespass
- leave behind trash
- harass livestock
- damage private property.



#### When Obstructions are Encountered



## OF FISH AND GAME LANDS AND ACCESS AREAS

Except as specifically approved by the Director as an exception or for administrative purposes, the following are some activities which are PROHIBITED on all lands, waters, and roads under control or administration of IDFG:

- To camp or park a vehicle and/or trailer for more than ten consecutive days in any thirty-day period in any one designated area (or as otherwise posted).
- To camp or park a vehicle and/or a trailer in any area posted against such use or to leave unattended a camp, vehicle, and/or trailer for more than forty-eight hours.
- To operate any motorized vehicles, including snowmachines, except on established roads. Operation of vehicles on established roads is prohibited when posted against such use.
- To start a fire without taking necessary measures to prevent its spreading or to leave a fire unattended. All fires are prohibited in areas posted against their use.
- To cut, dig, or remove any crops, trees, shrubs, grasses, forbs, logs, or fuel wood.

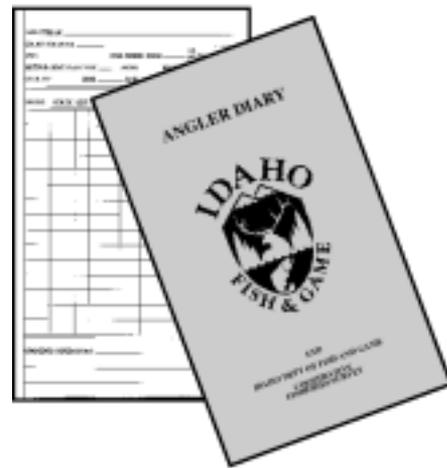
Other special rules relating to uses of and activities on IDFG Lands are detailed in a brochure titled "Public Use of Department Lands and Access Areas," which is available at IDFG offices.

## YOU CAN HELP IDFG COLLECT HARVEST DATA

IDFG fisheries workers spend a large share of their time surveying fish populations and anglers to monitor fish numbers and size, angler success, survival and movements of tagged fish to evaluate our management programs. Information from volunteers can help greatly in those efforts and will free-up time and money that can be devoted to programs that will make fishing better.

Why not help us help make your fishing better? Request your Angler Diary from any IDFG office and record the results of your fishing trips. Send it in at the end of the year so we can record the information, and we'll return your diary for your records and reminiscing.

### PUBLIC USE



## WILD TROUT — IDAHO'S LIVING GEMS

Rainbow, cutthroat and bull trout: Idaho's native wild trout legacy. They are what Idaho was — still is — and hopefully always will be. However, Idaho's wild trout resources have not escaped the effects of the last 100 years of human population growth. Impacts on water quality and habitat, and increasing numbers of anglers, have taken their toll in many areas. More restrictive harvest regulations have been imposed in many areas to balance these effects.

A statewide survey showed that Idaho's anglers support increased emphasis on wild trout management. IDFG management programs are taking that direction by emphasizing and increasing harvest opportunity with hatchery trout in lakes, reservoirs, and highly accessible streams that can't support healthy wild trout populations.

More streams will be managed for their potential to provide wild trout fishing. This may mean taking home fewer fish from a wild trout stream. But when you think back, the recollection of how many fish are taken home fades much more quickly than the experience of fishing one of Idaho's wild trout streams. Wild trout are a special experience — a unique Idaho experience. So take home the experience of Idaho's wild trout fishing, and let the wild trout legacy live on. With wise resource and land management, and your help, Idaho's wild trout legacy will be around for another 100 years.