

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission  
Quarterly Meeting—July 27-29, 2011  
Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
Salmon Regional Office  
1336/99 Hwy 93 North  
Salmon, Idaho**

**July 27**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Commission Field Tour Upper Lemhi Area**

Commissioners McDermott, Trevey, Barowsky, Wright, Budge, Anderson and Power attended a tour of the Upper Lemhi area.

**Executive Session**

**11-60** Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Wright seconded a motion to hold an executive session pursuant to I.C. 67-2345(1) (f) to discuss pending litigation. Roll Call Vote: **McDermott: aye; Trevey: aye; Budge: aye; Barowsky: aye; Anderson aye; Wright aye; Power: aye. Vote tally: 7 ayes.**

The executive session ended at 5:45 p.m. with no official action taken.

**RULES**

**Public Hearing**

Chairman McDermott called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He introduced Commissioners Fred Trevey, Robert Barowsky, Kenny Anderson, Gary Power, Randy Budge, Wayne Wright and Commission Secretary Virgil Moore. Staff introductions followed. Chairman McDermott introduced Representative Lee Heider and Idaho County Commissioner Jim Chmelik.

Chairman McDermott stated that the purpose of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission under State law is to preserve, protect, perpetuate and manage the wildlife of Idaho and provide hunting, fishing and trapping opportunities for Idaho citizens.

The purpose of this public meeting is to hear from you regarding the management of Idaho's wildlife. We value your input as part of our decision-making process. We understand Idahoans are passionate about our wildlife policy, although it is often difficult to satisfy all concerns.

IDFG personnel both from the Region and Boise Headquarters are available to answer both your questions and the Commission's during this two-day Commission meeting. Staff will also provide presentations to the Commission at the decision-making meeting on Thursday.

Chairman McDermott reviewed the procedure and conduct for the public meeting. The Commission understands that feelings on some issues can be strong, but we expect everyone to be courteous to others.

Chairman McDermott stated that the Commission volunteers their time as Commissioners because they care deeply about Idaho's wildlife, our hunting and fishing heritage. The Commission takes their responsibilities seriously under state law to manage wildlife, including the responsibility to support public hunting, fishing and trapping.

The Commission will set the seasons for wolves, sandhill cranes and fall Chinook. They will also consider changes to nonbiological rules for fish, game and non-game animals. There will also be a report from Idaho public health officials regarding the concerns we have heard about hydatid disease in wolves.

Chairman McDermott stated that the Commission will tackle the tough challenge of reducing Idaho's wolf population. Idaho has between 1,000 and 1,500 wolves. They are having a serious impact on deer, elk and moose populations in one third of Idaho's backcountry hunting units. Wolves are also coming into conflict with people and approaching homes and communities. The Commission will take action to address these problems. The Commission shares the frustration of many Idahoans on this subject.

To keep wolves off the endangered species list and under state management, there has to be a viable population of wolves. That is the direction of the 2002 Conservation and Management Plan approved by the Idaho Legislature, and the Commission will follow that plan.

G.Thomas spoke regarding wolf trapping and is concerned that the Salmon area was left out of the trapping units for wolves.

Jack Oyler, representing Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife (SFW) stated that the wolf harvest level (25) for the southern mountain region in the Magic Valley Region is too low. Declining elk numbers are due to predation. Mr. Oyler read comments from Scott Allen, SFW, regarding the survey to nonresident hunters. The survey shows three reasons why nonresidents are not returning to Idaho to hunt, 1) increase in wolf numbers, 2) decreasing elk numbers, and 3) the economy. SFW agrees with these reasons and until the elk numbers are restored nonresidents will not return to Idaho to hunt.

Tammy Overacker, Vice President, representing Idaho Outfitter & Guides Association (IOGA) (Appendix 44, Exhibit 65) reported that IOGA supports the wolf hunting season structure and quotas and supports the IDFG proposal for wolf trapping.

Alison French Steen, President, IOGA, urged the Commission to use all of the tools available to the Commission to have a strong season to get the elk numbers restored and get the balance back.

Richard Kraatz, Flat Iron Ranch, reports that he sees many wolves in his area and it is an everyday occurrence. Mr. Kraatz is concerned for the safety of his grandchildren due to wolves in his area. Mr. Kraatz questions the number of wolves in Idaho.

Billijo Beck, Idaho for Wildlife, thanked Commissioners Power and McDermott for their participation in the Charles Kay presentation and for listening. Idaho for Wildlife supports the IDFG wolf proposal.

Ron Gillett spoke regarding the lack of protection for game herds to protect our wildlife. For rural Idaho to survive economically we have to have well managed big game herds. Mr. Gillett is concerned about disease in wolves and the safety of children.

Gerald Walters, Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation, spoke regarding the auction and lottery tags and asked the Commission to consider their application.

F.H. Rowdy Davis thanked the Commission for the opportunity to speak and thanked Commissioner Power for good communication. Mr. Davis would like to see wolf trapping in the Salmon area and start working towards solutions for the game herds.

Irene Popp stated that she lives in Kamiah by Lolo Creek and that it is now wolf country. Ms. Popp is nine years old and reports that she sees wolves everyday near her home and at her bus stop. The wolves have killed her dog and her neighbors' dog. Elk City has turned into wolf city. Ms. Popp asks "Can anyone tell me what is good about the wolves?"

Mike Popp, representing the Committee for a Safe and Wolf Free Idaho stated that May 5 wolves were delisted. Mr. Popp referenced HB 343. The Committee would like to see a year-round hunting season and suggested that the Department collar 150 wolves. The Committee is pro wildlife, public safety and rural community.

Jim Chmelik, Idaho County Commissioner, is concerned about the decimated elk herds and moose populations in Idaho County due to wolves. He asked the Commission to eliminate this predator and protect the way of life in Idaho County.

Clay Dethlefsen, Western Predator Control Association addressed the Commission with questions regarding Fish and Game research on wolf disease.

Mike Murray, Idaho Muzzleloader Association spoke regarding the reinstatement of traditional hunts and scopes on muzzleloaders (Appendix 44, Exhibit 66).

Doug Sayer spoke regarding legislation for Partnership Tags. Mr. Sayer will continue to work with sportsmen groups, the legislature and the Department on this legislation.

John Watts spoke regarding the Governor's Wildlife Partnership Tag. Mr. Watts stated that he is working with Mr. Doug Sayer on a public policy that was brought before the 2010 Legislature. This public policy is an opportunity that will help move the Idaho Fish and Game Department

and give them a tool needed and revenue to manage wildlife. Mr. Sayer and Mr. Watts would like to share their vision and help the Department get the revenue that is desperately needed.

Chuck Ramsey addressed the Commission regarding wolf management levels. Chairman McDermott stated that the Commission will manage the wolf population to an acceptable number. The Department is required to have 150 wolves or more and will use adaptive management principles for the wolf population.

Bill Clementz, asked why is a non-native species (Canadian wolf) considered an endangered species in the United States.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

**July 28**

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Opening Comments**

Chairman Wright called the meeting to order with all Commissioners present. He thanked the Commission for the past 2 years and expressed kind words for each Commissioner.

### **Commissioner McDermott Assumes Chair**

Commissioner McDermott accepted the gavel from Commissioner Wright and assumed the chairmanship of the Commission. Director Moore presented a plaque to Commissioner Wright, on behalf of the Commission and Department, recognizing his excellent leadership as Commission Chair during 2009-2011.

## **REPORT**

### **Echinococcus Granulosus Briefing**

Dr. Christine Hahn, IDHW, Dr. Lesile Tengelsen, IDHW, and Dr. Mark Drew, IDFG presented a briefing to the Commission on Echinococcus (Appendix 44, Exhibit 67).

Although *Echinococcus granulosus* had been present in sheep and domestic dogs historically, the tapeworm had not been reported in wildlife until 2006 when a mountain goat was found to have hydatid cysts in the lungs. This discovery stimulated a survey for the tapeworm in wolves, the normal definitive host, in Idaho and Montana from 2006 to 2008. *Echinococcus granulosus* was detected in 63% of the wolves sampled from the 2 states. Results of the survey were published in the Journal of Wildlife Diseases in October 2009 (included).

Hydatid disease is a zoonotic disease, and recently has generated a fair amount of concern from some members of the public.

Idaho Code 36-106(e)(9) [IDFG]: Any deer, elk, antelope, moose, bighorn sheep or bison imported or transported by the department of fish and game shall be tested for the presence of certain communicable diseases that can be transmitted to domestic livestock. Those communicable diseases to be tested for shall be arrived at by mutual agreement between the department of fish and game and the department of agriculture. Any moneys expended by the department of fish and game on wildlife disease research shall be mutually agreed upon by the department of fish and game and the department of agriculture.

In addition, a comprehensive animal health program for all deer, elk, antelope, moose, bighorn sheep, or bison imported into, transported, or resident within the state of Idaho shall be implemented after said program is mutually agreed upon by the department of fish and game and the department of agriculture.

Idaho Code 36-106(e)(10) [IDFG]: In order to monitor and evaluate the disease status of wildlife and to protect Idaho's livestock resources, any suspicion by fish and game personnel of a potential communicable disease process in wildlife shall be reported within twenty-four (24) hours to the department of agriculture. All samples collected for disease monitoring or disease evaluation of wildlife shall be submitted to the division of animal industries, department of agriculture.

Idaho State Department of Agriculture has lead authority for diseases affecting livestock and other agricultural products.

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) has lead authority for diseases affecting humans.

Both the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and Idaho Department of Health and Welfare post information on their respective websites about zoonotic diseases, including *E. granulosus*. Additionally, both agencies provide information to hunters how to reduce risk of infection from diseases carried by wildlife.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Consent Calendar**

The consent calendar included the following items:

Minutes, March 28-30, 31 April 7, 28, 2011.  
Financial Report ending June 30, 2011.

**11-61** Commissioner Budge moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a motion to accept the items in the consent calendar as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Review of July 27 Public Comment**

Director Moore reported that he received written comments (Appendix 44, Exhibit 68) on behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council, Defense Council, Oregon Wild, The Idaho Chapter of the Sierra Club, and Wolf Haven International regarding the proposed 2011 Idaho Wolf Hunting Plan. Director Moore distributed copies to the Commissioners, staff and audience. Director Moore summarized the letter.

Public Comment from the July 27 hearing was reviewed.

Director Moore reported that Commissioners were provided with copies of a summary of wolf comments received and a general summary of the online comments submitted to wolf proposals.

Kathleen Trever, Deputy Attorney General provided a general summary of on-line comments submitted on IDFG's 2011 wolf season proposals (Appendix 44, Exhibit 69). Approximately 25,000 people took the time to complete IDFG's on-line survey on its proposed wolf hunting and trapping seasons, with about 14,000 people submitting comments in the space provided. Of these, approximately 200 were in response to a survey invite for identified hunters and approximately 200 were in response to a survey invite for the general population. Approximately 200 comments were also submitted through the IDFGINFO site.

Chairman McDermott noted that a letter from the Idaho Trappers Association was provided to the Commission and Department staff. The Trappers Association felt that wolf trapping should be allowed state wide. The Association stressed the importance for a wolf trapper education class for trappers to be ethical and effective.

Commissioner Barowsky asked if follow-up was provided to Clay Dethlefsen who had questions. Deputy Director Unsworth will provide information to Mr. Dethlefsen.

## **RULES**

### **Nonbiological for Game Animals and Protected Nongame**

Jon Rachael, reported that annually or biennially, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission considers proposed changes for two types of hunting rules, biological and nonbiological. Biological rules are published annually (i.e. Big Game, Waterfowl) or biennially (e.g. Moose, Bighorn Sheep, and Mountain Goat; Upland Game) and include seasons, limits, size, sex, and harvestable species. Nonbiological rules include all other rules adopted by the Commission. Examples of nonbiological rules include methods of take, tagging requirements, evidence-of-sex requirements, and controlled hunt eligibility requirements. Nonbiological rules are officially published in the Idaho Administrative Code (<http://adm.idaho.gov/adminrules/agyindex.htm>) and included in hunting regulation brochures.

## **Landowner Appreciation Program**

At the May meeting the Commission directed staff to scope issues related to the Landowner Appreciation Program (Appendix 44, Exhibit 70). In 2010, the Commission adopted rule changes to address sportsmen concern about the sale of LAP tags, and landowner concern about inequitable distribution of LAP tags. The 2011 Legislature approved the new rules making them effective in 2011. Mr. Rachael provided copies of the 2011 LAP Controlled Hunt Drawing (Appendix 44, Exhibit 71). The Commission asked staff to address issues for the five game management units 40, 41, 42, 45 and 52 that currently have an allocation of 25% of the number of tags that are offered for controlled hunts. The Department developed potential incentives, providing proportional benefits to sportsmen, which landowners could voluntarily agree to in exchange for LAP tags in excess of the standard 10% allocation. The potential incentives included:

- Establish an Access Yes! Agreement to provide for managed public access
- Establish a depredation release agreement, thereby being ineligible for depredation compensation
- Implement significant habitat improvement
- Provide special hunting opportunity for veterans and or youth

A survey was sent to all 176 registered landowners in game management units 40,41,42,45, and 52. The same survey was also posted on the Department website for interested members of the public.

Mr. Rachael stated that he does not have a recommendation but is asking for Commission guidance or direction on how to proceed; otherwise this is an advisory update on this rule.

Commissioner Wright stated that last year Commission approved Phase 1 of the LAP program and were aware that other change needed to be made and that the Commission would address at a later date under Phase 2 regarding the 25% allocation. Sportsmen and landowners view this as a problem and would like to see a change made.

Regional Supervisor Jerome Hansen reported that the Magic Valley Region is a unique region and there are opportunities to improve the Landowner Appreciation Program.

Commissioner Wright recommends the Commission readdress this LAP issue after further input to include written input and a presentation at the August meeting.

Mr. Rachael will work with staff in the Magic Valley and Southwest Regions and solicit sportsmen consideration and input.

Mr. Rachael stated that the rules that the Commission approves today will require 2012 Legislative review and would become effective in 2012.

Motorized Vehicle Restriction Rules for Trophy Species will require additional administrative process. Deputy Director Sharon Kiefer will address and discuss in the Legislative Update agenda item. Mr. Rachael provided a brief report and the intent is to bring the proposal to the

Commission at the August meeting. Staff conducted scoping to determine if hunters, including trophy species hunters, supported adding motorized vehicle restrictions to trophy species hunts that occur in units that currently have restrictions for other big game hunting.

**Rules Governing the Trapping of Predatory and Unprotected Wildlife and Taking of Furbearing Animals; campgrounds and picnic areas**

At the August 2010 Commission meeting, the Commission approved rules governing trap placement for the take of furbearer, predatory, or unprotected wildlife. The Commission further instructed the Department to work with trappers to determine if and how adjustments could be made to the rule prohibiting placing any ground set incorporating snare, trap, or attached materials within 300 feet of any designate public campground, trailhead, or picnic area.

The staff recommendation is no change to restriction on use of ground sets with- in 300 feet of designated campgrounds, trailheads, or picnic areas, but clarify that cage traps are not restricted by this rule.

**11-62** Commissioner Power moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a motion to accept the staff recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

**Rules Governing the Trapping of Predatory and Unprotected Wildlife and Taking of Furbearing Animals; break-away devices on snares.**

The Commission approved rules that made it unlawful to place or set any snare without a break-away device. Trapping organizations suggested that the Department require a break-away device on snares to allow the release of ungulates. It was understood the Department would further define this rule; including consideration of minimum poundage, definition of what constitutes a break-away device, and location of break-away devices in the snare set.

The staff recommendation is to modify rule to allow the use of cable stops as an alternative to a break-away device to reduce capture of non-target animals and to specify that the rule only applies to ground sets and that the break-away device or cable stop be within the loop of the snare to allow non-target animals to escape.

**11-63** Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Budge seconded a motion to accept the staff recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

**Rules Governing the Trapping of Predatory and Unprotected Wildlife and Taking of Furbearing Animals, foothold trap size and wolf trapping rules.**

Last year, with concern for public, pet, and livestock safety, and in conjunction with preparing to establish a wolf trapping season, the Department scoped a rule that would not allow placing any ground set incorporating a foothold trap with an inside jaw spread greater than nine inches. The rule was removed from the list of recommendations prior to the August 2010 commission meeting because wolves were relisted and there would be no reason for larger traps. In response to the recent wolf delisting, the Department will consider wolf trapping season.

The staff recommendation is to implement rule to limit a size of foothold traps in ground sets to maximum inside jaw spread of nine inches.

The staff recommendation is to establish a rule to require use of diverters as well as break-away devices or cable stops on snares set for wolves.

**11-64** Commissioner Trevey moved and Commissioner Anderson seconded a motion to accept the staff recommendations regarding jaw spread size and break-away devices. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rachael noted that there are two additional wolf trapping related rules but will defer the request for Commission action until the August meeting.

- Establish a new rule to allow trappers to set snares around ungulate carcasses found dead of natural cause. Existing rules do not allow use of game animals as bait to take big game, furbearer trapping rules require hide is removed from all mammals.
- Modify the rule to delete reference to “wolf trapping permit” in Wolf Trapping section of big game rules.

### **Nonresident Trapping License**

The Department’s intent is to allow nonresidents from states that allow nonresidents to trap in their state to trap wolves in Idaho, even if that state does not have a wolf trapping season. A rule change is not required. Staff will research reciprocity policy for nonresident trappers and advise Director Moore.

### **Rules Governing the Use of Dogs.**

The proposal is to remove raccoons from the list of species that requires a Hound Hunter Permit to hunt. Upon further consideration it appears this proposal may create consternation among resident houndsmen by increasing the number of nonresidents running hounds, and may create an enforcement concern by providing nonresidents an opportunity to run hounds without a nonresident hound hunter’s permit under the guise of pursuing raccoons. Staff will bring this proposal back for July 2012 after discussion with affected constituents.

### **Rules Governing the Use of Dogs: Limitation on hound hunter permits for nonresidents.**

The Commission asked staff to research whether an increase in the number of nonresident hound hunting permits would aid in the removal of black bears and mountain lions in GMUs that have struggling elk and or deer herds. The Department sells 2,900 resident hound hunter permits annually. The Department issues up to 70 nonresident permits that can be used by a nonresident hound hunter in any unit within the state where the hunter possesses a black bear or mountain lion tag. The Department recommendation is to take no action. The Commission asked staff to scope this proposal with sportsmen in the fall and winter during big game season-setting process

in Regions 4 and 5 to see if there is a preference to have additional nonresident houndhunter permits available in those regions to aid in increasing harvest of predators to improve deer and elk populations.

### **Bighorn Sheep Auction and Lottery Tags.**

Staff recommendation is to modify the rule to require the Bighorn Sheep Auction Tag winner to file a notarized affidavit within 15 days of the successful bid if the hunting license and tag are to be designated to an individual other than the bidder. After 15 days no further changes may be made. Specify in rule that the bighorn sheep lottery tag is not transferable and must comply with state of Idaho Lottery rules (must be 18 or older to participate). Miscellaneous, rule clean-up (rename from Special Bighorn Sheep Tag to Bighorn Sheep Auction Tag, change references to “permit” to “tag”).

**11-65** Commissioner Budge moved and Commissioner Power seconded a motion to accept the Department recommendation subject to confirmation from legal counsel that you cannot lawfully transfer a lottery tag. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Rules Governing the Taking of Game Birds**

Mr. Rachael stated that this proposal is an administrative clean-up of duplicative rules that are set by proclamation.

The staff recommendation is an administrative cleanup to condense and update rules and avoid duplication in IDAPA of seasons, bag and possession limits, and hunt areas that are now set by proclamation. Modify age range for youth eligible to participate in the Federal Youth Waterfowl Hunting day from 12-15 years to 15 years and younger to be consistent with federal regulations and allow younger hunters to participate.

**11-66** Commissioner Power moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a motion to accept the Department recommendation for rules governing the taking of game birds to include the youth waterfowl age. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Game Management Unit Boundary Descriptions**

Landmarks and roads specified in game management unit boundaries have changed over time and parts of some boundaries are difficult to follow on the map or ground. Clarification of these boundaries is intended to reduce hunter confusion rather than make significant changes to move the boundaries. Staff will bring proposed changes to the August Commission meeting.

### **Landowner Appreciation Program**

Commissioner Wright would like permission to discuss the Landowner Appreciation Program again. Commissioner Wright stated that the Commission has discussed this topic for a number of years. As an example, Unit 45 has 25% allocation of the tags that go to landowners and not to the sportsmen, and this is wrong. Some of these tags show up on the auction block as trespass right tags that sell for a high dollar amount, and he feels that the Commission needs to address this issue now and not wait until July of 2012. Commissioner Wright suggests 10% for both

landowners and sportsmen. Director Moore stated that staff will provide the Commission with a draft proposal on this issue; the Commission can review and determine if staff should move forward with the proposal for action at the August Commission meeting. Staff will then go through the administrative process necessary to get approval. Director Moore suggests that staff get the draft proposals out to the landowners and public giving them an opportunity to review. Mr. Rachael suggests pulling in Region 4 for input.

### **Season Setting: 2011-2012 Idaho Wolf Harvest Season Proposal**

Mr. Rachael stated that on April 15, 2011 President Obama signed the 2011 federal budget bill that included a rider that required the secretary of interior to reissue the final rule that was published on April 2, 2009 to delist wolves. That 2009 rule determined that the Northern Rocky Mountain wolf population was biologically recovered and that management by the states, except for Wyoming, would ensure it remained recovered. The 2009 rule contains the mandatory post-delisting monitoring and public reporting requirements, and triggers/safeguards that would cause wolves to be considered for relisting under the Endangered Species Act. As a result of this action, wolf management responsibility was returned to the States of Montana and Idaho on May 5, 2011. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game immediately resumed responsibility for wolf monitoring, including responding to livestock depredations and authorizing control actions, and began preparation for a 2011-2012 hunting season.

Mr. Rachael provided a quick overview of wolves since the reintroduction in 1995 (Appendix 44, Exhibit 72). There is a progressive increase in wolf population, continuing problems with depredation on livestock and increasing impacts of wolf predation on ungulate populations. On May 19 the Idaho Fish and Game Commission directed the Fish and Game Department to manage wolves in a manner that will ensure wolves remain under responsible state management in conjunction with the rest of Idaho's wildlife. The Fish and Game's goal is to manage wolves to reduce conflicts, ensure a self-sustaining wolf population and maintain state management authority.

Mr. Rachael distributed the proposed 2011/2012 Wolf Hunting and Trapping Seasons (Appendix 44, Exhibit73).

### **Hunting Proposals:**

Standard hunting season dates statewide: August 30-March 31, except for August 30-December 31 in Island Park and Beaverhead wolf management zones.

Hunters may buy 2 tags per calendar year.

Bag limit: No person may take more than one wolf per legal tag in his or her possession.

Wolf seasons are Any-Weapon seasons.

Electronic calls may be used statewide.

Wolves may be taken incidentally to fall bear baiting.

Reduced-price nonresident wolf tags (\$31.75) in Lolo, Selway, and Middle Fork Wolf zones, consistent with nonresident bear and lion tag prices.

Hunters must report killing a wolf within 72 hrs. Hunters must present skull and hide to IDFG office within 10 days.

The wolf season closes when the harvest limit for that zone is reached or the season closing date, whichever comes first.

### **Trapping Proposals:**

Standard trapping season dates: December 1- February 15.

Trappers may buy up to 3 tags with trapping license for use in those zones with an open trapping season in addition to 2 tags purchased for hunting; un-used tags from hunting season (up to 2) may also be used to tag trapped wolves.

Bag limit: No person may take more than one wolf per legal tag in his or her possession.

Methods of take: both snares and foothold traps w/jaw spread not to exceed 9 inches are legal during wolf trapping season.

Tags purchased for trapping may be used to take wolves through hunting where and when the wolf trapping season is open.

Baiting regulations for trapping wolves are consistent with regulations for furbearers (August meeting).

Mandatory trapping education class required before purchasing tags for wolf trapping.

72- hour trap check requirement, same as for furbearer trapping.

Reduced-price nonresident wolf tags (\$31.75) in Lolo, Selway, and Middle Fork Wolf zones, consistent with nonresident bear and lion tag prices.

Mandatory report within 72 hours of kill: mandatory check within 10 days consistent with current rule.

Public Input Process regarding the wolf hunting and trapping proposals: the Department sent out postcards to a random sample of 1,000 individuals who hunted deer or elk in Idaho last year.

Sent postcards to random sample of 2,000 Idaho residents, split 50:50 by sex.

Provided same information online and allowed anyone who was interested to complete the survey. It was the Department's intention to be transparent by providing background information on our concerns and conflicts with wolves at their present level and our proposed management direction. The survey demonstrated that the public is passionate and wants to be involved in wolf management decision- making. The purpose of the survey was to get public feedback on a specific proposal on hunting and trapping seasons, not to assess public opinion on wolves or wolf management

Mr. Rachael reported that the Department had received a number of complaints regarding survey bias.

Kathleen Trever, Deputy Attorney General, reported that there was constituent confusion regarding what the April 2011 federal budget rider did regarding protections for wolves in Idaho under the Endangered Species Act. Ms. Trever provided a brief review.

Although the rider resulted in the removal of wolves in Idaho from the Endangered Species List, the rider did NOT exempt Idaho wolves from future regulation under the Endangered Species Act.

The rider ordered U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to republish the 2009 rule delisting wolves in Idaho, Montana, eastern Oregon and Washington, and northern Utah. (The 2009 rule allowed

Idaho's first wolf hunting season.) The rider stated that the newly published rule would not be subject to judicial review.

The republished 2009 rule requires 5- year post-delisting monitoring by USFWS. It also requires a USFWS status review if (1) wolves in Idaho or Montana fall below 100 individuals/10 breeding pairs at the end of the year; (2) wolves in Idaho or Montana fall below 150 individuals/15 breeding pairs in either state at the end of 3 consecutive years; or (3) if a change in state law or management objectives would significantly increase the threat to the wolf population. Wolves are subject to relisting if ESA listing standards are met.

Ms. Trever noted that Judge Molloy's previous order to relist wolves was made on procedural grounds about how the federal government could delist wolves; Judge Molloy did not make any findings of biological threat to the wolf population. In fact, his opinion implied the 2009 rule was a practical approach.

Bills to exempt wolves from the Endangered Species Act entirely have been introduced in Congress, but this legislation has not passed.

Commission discussion and questions followed on harvest limits, quotas and connectivity, and nonresident reduced tags for statewide option.

Mr. Rachael stated that this proposal is for this season and it is the Department's intent to be adaptive and make management adjustments as appropriate. It is our intent to incorporate the big game season and rule -setting process along with the other big game in March 2012.

Commissioner Trevey commented that we need to recognize direct control to address conflict at the director's discretion is available across the board at any time.

Chairman McDermott suggested that the Commission address the hunting and trapping proposals separately.

Commissioner Anderson commented on the genetic connectivity of the wolves in the Beaverhead Zone and across into Yellowstone Park. There is talk and new information that this is not a viable concern at this point with the population of the wolves. This affects the Region 6 area in a very serious way. The last hunt only allowed the harvest of 5 wolves in the Island Park Zone, and the constituents were unhappy. Commissioner Anderson suggests increasing the harvest limits in the Island Park and Beaverhead Zones by five each. He feels that more wolves need to be taken in these areas.

Mr. Rachael stated that genetic connectivity is really not an issue. When you start managing wolves to a lower number it will come back up in court. It is not a biological issue at present wolf numbers and density. Wolves will come back and forth across the borders.

Commissioner Power concurs with Commissioner Anderson on increasing the harvest limit by 5 in the Beaverhead Zone as in the Salmon Region. Commissioner Power would rather have a hunter be able to take a wolf rather than Wildlife Services take the same wolf.

**11-67** Commissioner Trevey moved and Commissioner Budge seconded a motion to accept the staff recommendation for the hunting seasons with the following changes:

- Increase the harvest limit in the Beaverhead Zone to 10.
- Increase the harvest limit in the Island Park Zone to 30.
- Extend the hunting season in the Lolo and Selway zones to coincide with the spring black bear season, which ends June 30.
- Reduce nonresident wolf tags to \$31.75 statewide; to be effective retroactively, with hunters who have already bought tags eligible for a refund.

**11-68** Commissioner Power moved for a substitute motion to only offer the nonresident reduced wolf tags in the Lolo, Selway and Middle Fork zones. The motion died for a lack of a second.

The original motion 11-67 carried unanimously.

**11-69** Commissioner Trevey moved and Commissioner Wright seconded a motion to accept the staff recommendation for the 2011/2012 wolf trapping season as presented with the following changes:

- Open the season for wolf trapping in the Panhandle, Lolo, Selway, Dworshak and Middle Fork zones on November 15, 2011 and close the season on March 31, 2012.
- Consider trapping seasons for other zones at the January 2012 meeting.
- Reduce the nonresident trapping fee to \$31.75 retroactively.

The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Presentation to Jim Lukens**

Retiring Regional Supervisor Jim Lukens was honored for his dedicated service to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Mr. Lukens retired after 32 years with the Department.

### **Agenda Changes**

Chairman McDermott stated that the agenda is running behind schedule and the Commission will address action items in sequence, with non-action items following as time permits.

The Commission previously was scheduled for a conference call on August 18; due to the number of items that need to be addressed, the Commission will meet August 24<sup>th</sup> in Boise.

## LEGISLATION

### 2012 Legislative Proposals

Sharon Kiefer, Deputy Director presented the agency sponsored legislative proposals (Appendix 44, Exhibit 74). The Department is seeking policy guidance regarding the Department's package of legislative ideas for submission to the Executive Agencies Legislation System (EALS) for Governor Office approval. This is the first step of the executive agency legislative process. Agency ideas must be electronically submitted to EALS by August 1. Governor-approved ideas must be drafted as legislative proposals and submitted to EALS by September 16.

Proposals:

#### Clarification Proposal

Amend Idaho Code 36-1508(b) to also allow youth under the age of 12 who are participating in the mentor hunt program to possess a firearm.

#### New Proposals, Non-fee Related

Create ability to transfer a control hunt tag to a youth by amending Idaho Code 36-405(c) 2(B) and any other relevant statutes.

Create Commission authority to dispose of Fish and Game -owned property.

Amend the nonresident season hunting license to be a nonresident season hunting/3day fishing license, with no fee modification (i.e., cost is the same as the current fee for the nonresident season hunting license) by amending Idaho Code 36-407 and Idaho Code 36-416.

Ms. Kiefer stated the Department is working on a license restructure and will have two youth licensing proposals to be addressed in the 2013 legislative process.

**11-70** Commissioner Budge moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a motion to approve the legislative proposals for the 2012 legislative session. The motion carried unanimously.

### ATV Task Force

Sharon Kiefer updated the Commission on the continuing work on improvement of the Motorized Vehicle Rule for hunters and expectations of the interim legislative ATV Task Force. Ms. Kiefer reviewed staff recommendations (Appendix 44, Exhibit 75) from the May meeting workshop. Items for consideration are to (1) change the title of the rule to the Motorized Hunting Rule (MHR), which makes it clear the rule is about hunters; (2) refine the use restriction segment of the rule and clarify which types of game hunts are included; and (3) define terms of the rule that apply to the use restriction and to revise the exception part of the rule.

Ms. Kiefer reviewed policy options regarding how to designate the rule, specifically where/when it applies including the expansion of motorized use restrictions to predatory and unprotected species and interpretation of the intent of motorized travel was discussed.

Commissioner Randy Budge will represent the Commission at the Legislative Task Force meeting on August 10<sup>th</sup> in Boise. Commissioner Budge states that the rule came under legislative scrutiny last year. The Commission asked the Committee not revoke the Commission authority to make this rule but allow the Commission an opportunity to review the rule and correct it as appropriate. The Commission can now show the Legislative Task Force the steps taken to correct the rule since the legislature adjourned. We reviewed the rule at our May meeting and came up with proposed changes to keep this rule authority.

Ms. Kiefer provided a summary sheet of the Federal Travel Plan Enforcement by IDFG Employees (Appendix 44, Exhibit 76).

### **2011 Legislative Implementation Proposed Rule to Implement House Bill 143**

House Bill 143 was approved by the 2011 Legislature and signed by the Governor. The bill became effective July 1, 2011. This legislation allows nonresident disabled veterans who are participating in a hunt in association with a qualified organization to receive reduced fees for certain licenses and tags.

Implementation of this new program requires new rule implementation and new administrative procedures. It is important to clarify the documentation expectation for program participants (Appendix 44, Exhibit 77). The Commission has the authority to approve new rules to complete implementation of the new program.

The 2011 Legislature provided public involvement via bill hearings in the House and Senate. Staff reviewed the implementation framework with the legislative sponsor.

**11-71** Commissioner Power moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a motion to accept the staff recommendation to implement House Bill 143. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Mentored Hunt Program Update**

House Bill 85, which passed during the 2011 legislative session, authorized the Commission to establish rules to implement a mentored hunting program in Idaho. The objective of the Mentor Hunt Program is to allow interested individuals of any age to experience hunting with a mentor to foster participating in hunting as a lifetime activity.

House Bill 85 contained specific provisions that must be included in the program. The provisions are:

- 1) an application to the Department for a special authorization to take wildlife (not considered a license) while accompanied by a mentor,
- 2) the mentor must possess a valid Idaho hunting license and be over 18 years of age,
- 3) the authorization shall be for a specific period of time,
- 4) the authorization can allow eligibility for certain game tags,
- 5) the authorization does not alter the hunter education requirement to purchase a hunting license.

Public review and input is in progress. A key stakeholder targeted for public involvement is the Idaho Hunter Education Association. The Department received preliminary feedback from Idaho Hunter Education instructors and members of the Idaho Hunter Education Association (Appendix 44, Exhibit 78).

### **Wildlife Salvage and Sale Rule Proposal Update**

Sharon Kiefer, Deputy Director, provided a summary of issues regarding the rule (Appendix 44, Exhibit 79).

During the 2010 session, there was legislative interest in a mechanism for the public to salvage wildlife, including salvage of wildlife specifically from vehicle collision. The Department committed to evaluate existing mechanisms for wildlife salvage and consider options to enhance them for Commission consideration and direction.

During the November 2010 Commission meeting, staff reported that there is a mix of statutory and rule provisions that allow for salvage (i.e., possession), of animal parts obtained from methods of legal take other than hunting. A foundation of statute and rule is that wildlife must have been “legally taken”. A key issue for the salvage issue is that unintentional vehicular collision is currently not defined as a legal method of take.

Staff also reported that Idaho Code 36-501 gives the Commission the authority to permit “by rule” the sale of parts of wildlife when such sale will not injuriously affect the species permitted. Coupled with IDAPA 13.01.10.300.02, which states that protected species of wildlife that have died naturally or accidentally remain in public trust to be disposed of by the Department, staff believes that the Commission does have the authority to enhance salvage opportunity, specifically for wildlife accidentally killed by unintentional vehicle collision by amending rule and giving policy guidance to the Department to create an appropriate reporting and possession mechanism.

Staff requested Commission guidance regarding the policy desire to enhance salvage opportunity to also include sale of salvaged wildlife, particularly from vehicle collision (i.e., man-caused, non-natural death) with the advice that providing a mechanism for sale of salvaged wildlife would require rule modification whereas providing for salvage only (possession but no sale) likely requires only policy enhancement. The Commission requested a rule proposal for policy consideration.

The staff recommendation is to consider a staff proposal for rule action at the August 2011 meeting and to provide for public input opportunity to inform the rule discussion and decision.

## RULES

### Season Setting: 2011 Fall Chinook

Ed Schriever, Fisheries Chief, presented the staff recommendations (Appendix 44, Exhibit 80) to the Commission. This agenda item concerns the setting of a fishing season for fall Chinook salmon on the Snake River and a portion of the Clearwater River in September and October of 2011. A fishery for fall Chinook salmon was conducted on the Snake River in October 2008 and September and October of 2009 and 2010. Staff is projecting that sufficient numbers of hatchery origin, adipose fin-clipped fall Chinook salmon will return to the proposed fishing area to meet hatchery broodstock needs and permit a non-tribal sport fishery on the harvestable share available. Natural origin fall Chinook that return to the proposed fishing area are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act and allowable encounter rates on these listed fish are stipulated in the Fisheries Management and Evaluation Plan for Steelhead and Fall Salmon Fisheries submitted by the Department to NOAA Fisheries on December 30, 2010.

This is only the fourth year of proposing the relatively new fall Chinook salmon fishery. This fishing opportunity arises from ESA coverage for natural origin fall Chinook encountered incidentally in the steelhead and fall salmon fisheries as stipulated in the Fisheries Management and Evaluation Plan for Steelhead and Fall Chinook Salmon fisheries that was submitted to NOAA Fisheries on December 30, 2010.

**11-72** Commissioner Power moved and Commissioner Trevey seconded a motion to approve the 2011 fishery for fall Chinook salmon in the Snake River. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Rules: Nonresident Deer and Elk Tag and Outfitter Set-Aside Quotas**

Jon Rachael, State Wildlife Manager, reported that the Commission annually establishes quotas for total nonresident deer and elk tags and quotas on nonresident deer and elk tags for use by hunters using the services of a licensed Idaho outfitter. Outfitter set-aside quotas are a subset of total nonresident deer and elk tag quotas. Any outfitter set-aside tags not claimed by outfitted clients by July 1 revert back to the Department for sale to nonresident hunters. The table below provides a review of total nonresident deer and elk tag quotas since 1990. The staff recommends no change to existing 2011 nonresident deer and elk tag quotas, or outfitter set-aside quotas.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Elk</b>	<b>Regular Deer*</b>	<b>Southeast Deer</b>	<b>White-tailed Deer</b>	<b>Total Deer Tags</b>
1990	12,815	15,500			15,500
1991	12,815	15,500			15,500
1992	12,815	15,500			15,500
1993	12,815	15,500			15,500
1994	12,815	15,500			15,500
1995	12,815	14,700	800		15,500
1996	12,815	14,500	1,000		15,500
1997	12,815	12,800	1,200		14,000
1998	12,815	12,800	1,200		14,000
1999	12,815	12,800	1,200		14,000
2000	12,815	12,800	1,200		14,000
2001	12,815	12,800	1,200		14,000
2002	12,815	12,800	1,200		14,000
2003	12,815	12,800	1,200		14,000
2004	12,815	12,800	1,200		14,000
2005	12,815	12,800	1,200		14,000
2006	12,815	12,800	1,200		14,000
2007	12,815	12,800	1,200		14,000
2008	12,815	14,000		1,500	15,500
2009	12,815	14,000		1,500	15,500
2010	12,815	14,000		1,500	15,500
2011	12,815	14,000		1,500	15,500

\* Regular tags include Regular, Clearwater (1998-2004) & White-tailed deer (2005-present) tags.

**11-73** Commissioner Power moved and Commissioner Wright seconded a motion to accept the staff recommendation of no change to existing 2011 nonresident deer and elk tag quotas, or outfitter set-aside quotas. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Release of Bighorn Sheep Tags for Auction and Lottery**

Jeff Gould reported that the Commission directed the Bureau of Wildlife staff to develop guidelines for selecting organizations to offer wildlife auction and lottery tags. Two organizations have expressed interest in offering the 2012 bighorn auction and bighorn lottery tags. Agency staff have reviewed and scored all applications to assist in selecting conservation groups to receive these special wildlife tags to market through lottery or auction (Appendix 44, Exhibit 81).

The Commission is authorized under IC 36-408 to release 2 special bighorn sheep tags; one issued through auction, one through lottery. Funds received from the auction tag are currently used to identify causes for, and solutions to, disease in bighorn sheep. Lottery-generated funds are used to support the Wildlife Health program. Selection of tag recipients is assigned to the Commission for bighorn sheep tags. A qualification and selection process was implemented in

2010 to assure that these special tags are awarded in a credible, independent fashion. The qualification process also helps conservation groups submit competitive bids in a timely manner.

Applications to be awarded opportunity to market the 2012 bighorn sheep tags were received from the Idaho Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation (lottery tag only), Idaho Sportsmen for Fish & Wildlife (auction and lottery tag) and Wild Sheep Foundation (auction tag only).

Staff recommendation is to award the 2012 bighorn sheep auction tag to the Wild Sheep Foundation and award the 2012 bighorn sheep lottery tag to the Idaho Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation.

**11-74** Commissioner Trevey moved and Commissioner Anderson seconded a motion to accept the staff recommendations for the bighorn sheep auction and lottery tags to the respective organizations. The motion carried unanimously.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Commission Direction of Animal Damage Control Board Funds**

Jeff Gould, Wildlife Chief, stated that Idaho statute annually appropriates \$100,000 of Department funds to the State Animal Damage Control Board (ADCB) for control of predatory animals and birds. Additionally, the Department annually transfers funds from the expendable depredation account to the ADCB when a surplus exists (a surplus does not exist this year). Idaho statute authorizes the Commission to direct how these funds are to be used. Mr. Gould presented a copy of the letter to the ADCB regarding allocation of funds (Appendix 44, Exhibit 82).

Since 2005, the Commission has directed \$50,000 or more to be used for intensive coyote removal in conjunction with the Mule Deer Initiative in eastern Idaho. Additional funds, approximately \$50,000, have been directed by the Commission to support Wildlife Services' activities identified in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department and the ADCB.

Staff recommendation: In compliance with Idaho Statue 36-112 and 36-115 (c), the Commission should direct the ADCB to allocate monies in the animal damage control account as follows:

- 1) \$50,000 to support ADCB responsibilities outlined in the current MOU between the Department and ADCB and to control specific predatory animals or birds on Wildlife Management Areas;
- 2) \$50,000.00 to control coyotes in support of the Department's Mule Deer Initiative in eastern Idaho.

**11-75** Commissioner Budge moved and Commissioner Power seconded a motion to accept the staff recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.

## **RULES**

### **Season Setting: Sandhill Cranes and Mourning Dove**

Jeff Gould presented the Department recommendation (Appendix 44, Exhibit 83) to the Commission . Mr. Gould reported that each year, Idaho receives a crane harvest allocation, as directed by the Pacific Flyway Council Rocky Mountain Population Crane Plan. Sandhill crane depredation on grain crops is a problem in some areas, and the season has been established to allow harvest of cranes that nest in Idaho before migration begins. In 2011, the allocation is for 410 cranes, down slightly from 449 in 2010; however, only 253 birds were harvested in 2010. The Department recommendation is to increase the daily bag limit from two to three cranes per day to correspond with the daily bag limit allowed in the Federal Framework. There is no change recommended for the mourning dove.

**11-76** Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Wright seconded a motion to accept the Department recommendation for mourning dove and sandhill crane hunting seasons. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Nonbiological Rules For Fish**

Ed Schriever, Chief, Fisheries, presented the recommendations (Appendix 44, Exhibit 84) for nonbiological fish rules. Rule recommendations this year focus on adding new definitions to IDAPA that are used in the 2011 – 2012 Fishing Rules, simplifying current definitions, creating conditions under which hatchery salmon and steelhead legally harvested can be transported without tails and heads, making it illegal to mark and release fish without a collecting permit, and allowing the use of a gaff hook when harvesting nongame fish taken with archery equipment.

Solicitation of potential changes or additions to nonbiological fish rules began in February 2011. In May of 2011, the Commission approved a list of potential rule changes, provided by the public and staff, for scoping.

**11-77** Commissioner Wright moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a motion to accept the department recommendations for nonbiological rules for fish. The motion carried unanimously.

## **LANDS**

### **Land Acquisitions**

Gregg Servheen, Wildlife Program Coordinator, presented the land acquisitions to the Commission.

### **City of Nampa/Wilson Springs Easement**

The City of Nampa requests a trail easement to connect the Wilson Springs Access footpath on Department property to a city-managed walking path/greenbelt, including installation of a box

culvert to connect the path to a public road. Total distance is approximately 400 feet and 1/10 acre.

The Department currently has an MOU with Canyon County to use the Wilson Springs area as a component of their elementary school science and outdoor programs. Connecting to the pathway would enhance community access to what is becoming an urban fishery and nature area. Other than some Department staff time, all costs associated with implementing the project would be the responsibility of the City of Nampa.

### **Rothwell Easement Donation**

This small donated easement (about 0.72 acres--50 feet x 630 feet) will allow access across private land to the Big Lost River above the Blaine Diversion. The vast majority of the Big Lost is private property and public access is a huge issue in the area. Loss of this access point would affect a long stretch of river as there would be no place for floaters to exit the river.

Initial cost estimated at \$5,000 (survey, gravel road, fence) and annual O&M is estimated at \$500.

**11-78** Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Budge seconded a motion for the Department to proceed with the Rothwell and Wilson Springs easements as presented by staff. The motion carried unanimously.

## **REPORT**

### **Briefing for 2011/2012 Migratory Game Bird and 2011 Sage Grouse Seasons**

Jeff Gould reported that the Commission will set the 2011/2012 Migratory Game Bird and 2011 Sage grouse seasons at the August 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Gould referenced a full sage grouse report (Appendix 44, Exhibit 85) in the Director's report in the Commission agenda book. The Department is anticipating a liberal 107- day hunting season and a seven- bird limit for the waterfowl seasons. Jeff Knetter will give a full report and proposal at the August 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **REPORTS**

### **IDFG Website Update**

Mike Keckler , Communications Chief, stated that for the last 18 months, Department web designers have been working on the new Fish and Game website, which was launched July 25. The new site is database driven, making it much faster and better organized and easier for users to find information. Mr. Keckler conducted a brief demonstration of new features including event calendars, and explained how to use the new website.

### **Commissioner Reports**

Each Commissioner provided their Regional Report in written format (Appendix 44, Exhibit 86).

Commissioner Gary Power gave the floor to regional conservation officer Dave Silcock who presented the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association award to Andy Smith. The award is called the Torch Award and is for officers with less than five years of service. Officer Smith patrols in Challis including all of the Middle Fork. The bulk of his patrol area is only accessible by foot, horse, raft or plane. Smith has done an exceptional job for the agency and is very involved in the community. Congratulations on what you do for the Department.

Commissioner Wayne Wright reported that almost 2,700 pelicans were counted in June and 300 juveniles were banded. Statewide pelican counts are down, with 641 fewer nests and 1282 fewer breeding birds than in 2010. A pair of kit foxes was detected in the Jarbidge area. This is only the second kit fox recorded within the Magic Valley in the past 7 years. The pheasant surrogate pilot project continues at Niagara Springs WMA; many pheasant chicks froze to death due to the unseasonably cold weather. Staff participated in a field tour of the proposed wind project on China Mountain with Department of Interior and BLM personnel. The second annual Magic Valley Sportsman's Fish Fry was held on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Over 150 sportsmen and women attended feasting on crappie, catfish, and even carp. Participants were given tips on fishing and fish preparation. Every Wednesday evening this summer the Magic Valley fish trailer hits the road to a popular fishing hole. Events have been drawing an average of 100 anglers; kudos to staff.

Commissioner Randy Budge reported that reservoir fishing is outstanding across the region this summer. American Falls Reservoir has produced a new state record for rainbow trout – 41” long and 34 lbs/7 ounces. The pelican nesting success at the Blackfoot Reservoir colony was sharply reduced this year due to the prolonged winter and heavy snowfall. The overall effect was significantly reduced pelican production. The mule deer population was hit hard with the winter conditions in Bear Lake and Caribou counties.

Commissioner Bob Barowsky reported that the region completed bear trapping operations this year, radio collaring 8 females for a total of 14 actively collared females. An additional 13 males were marked for a total of 38 bears marked in two years on the Boise Forest. Wolf depredations have been very minimal. The region has had two fires involving Department managed lands. The region fishery staff transplanted over 4,000 warm water fish to various ponds and reservoirs to establish new populations. Commissioner Barowsky compliments the MKNC and the outstanding job that the Department is doing.

Commissioner Fred Trevey reported that the ground-breaking ceremony for Deyo Reservoir was held on July 7<sup>th</sup>. The spring Chinook fishery estimated 147,000 hours were expended fishing in the Clearwater Region. Fisheries management in the region has compiled an email distribution list of more than 300 anglers and businesses to keep them updated on the Chinook fishery with overwhelming positive responses. Enforcement officers have been assisting with wolf control actions in Powell and Elk City.

Commissioner Kenny Anderson reports that the snow pack in the Upper Snake Region was over 200 percent, causing some flooding and high flows in the South Fork. The Ryder Park family

fishing pond is full and soon will be stocked. Population biologists are assisting the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team (IGBST) with grizzly bear trapping and collaring. The team caught one grizzly the first night with only two traps in place. The IGBST is reworking the mathematical model that estimates the grizzly bear population in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Chairman Tony McDermott distributed a copy of "State Authorities over Wildlife" a White Paper for Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Appendix 44, Exhibit 87). The Chairman thanked Brian Kelly, FWS, for attending and introduced Dr. Hillary Cooley. The Chairman thanked Tom Curet and staff for the great field day. There have been numerous bear complaints from around the Panhandle Region due to the late advent of spring and summer pushing the huckleberry crop back three weeks. The cool summer and continued high flows are probably contributing to the number of fish encountered, but the findings are encouraging that a fishery can be developed.

### **Director's Report**

Director Moore noted that the Director's report is included in the Commission agenda book. Later this fall the Director's office will provide a full accounting of the accomplishments under the Business Plan that was presented to the Commission at their May meeting.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Executive Session**

The Commission went in to executive session at 5:15 p.m.

**11-79** Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Wright seconded a motion to go in to executive session pursuant to I.C. 67-2345(1) (c) to discuss land acquisitions. Roll Call Vote: **McDermott: aye; Trevey: aye; Budge: aye; Barowsky: aye; Anderson aye; Wright aye; Power: aye. Vote tally: 7ayes.**

The Executive Session ended at 5:30 p.m. with no official action taken.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Tony McDermott  
Chairman

Virgil Moore  
Secretary