

Idaho Fish and Game
July 9-10, 2014
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Salmon, Idaho

July 9

The Commissioners Fred Trevey, Mark Doerr, Brad Corkill, and Will Naillon toured the Frank Church Wilderness Area, Mustang Fire and Pahsimeroi Fish Hatchery.

Chairman Trevey called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. with Commissioners Mark Doerr, Brad Corkill and Will Naillon present. Commissioner Kenny Anderson was excused. The Southwest and Southeast Commission positions are vacant.

REPORTS

Method of Take Technology Policy Review

Toby Boudreau, Natural Resource Program Coordinator, provided a briefing (Appendix 47, Exhibit 45) on technology. Mr. Boudreau reported that the Commission has a history of trying to maintain liberal hunting opportunities in Idaho. The dominate weapon of choice for Idahoans is a rifle with 93% of mule deer hunters using a rifle sometime during the season. Therefore the majority of hunt types are "Any Weapon". Special or primitive weapons were considered "extra" opportunity and often had lower success rates than rifle hunting.

Over the years there have been advancements in technology that make the once primitive weapon nearly as successful as modern rifles, especially when season timing increases vulnerability. For instance archery elk hunts during the rut and muzzleloader mule deer hunts during the rut.

The Commission does not currently have an official policy on technology and how technological advances should be addressed as requests for rule changes occur. However the Department's strategic planning document "The Compass" does make a statement about technology.

- Restrict the use of technological advances in fish and wildlife recreation when they compromise fair chase and management objectives.

The commission has consistently taken a conservative approach to advancing the technology as it pertains to method of take for big game. This is consistent with the ideas that weapon types alternate to modern rifles are meant to remain as primitive as possible in order to maximize the opportunity without comprising management objectives.

Consider policy update and a general review of and criteria for legal and illegal. Future meeting.

Regional Trapping Work Groups Update

Chip Corsi and Tom Curet presented a summary of the meetings.

In recent years, recreational trail users in the foothills near Boise have voiced concern over their dogs being captured by foothold traps. The region convened a small working group to review possible solutions that resulted in information and signing changes.

Last winter, along with the widely reported deaths of two dogs caught in traps, the Department and Commission received numerous complaints from bird hunters and other outdoor recreationists about safety of their dogs in areas where their activities overlap with trapping. Input was received from at least one land management agency stating that they would consider area closures for traps set on land if public demand continued and other measures were not instituted by the Department. In response, the Department initiated working groups in each region to brain-storm ideas that could then be considered by the Department and Commission to reduce conflicts.

Each working group met 1-3 times to discuss and review the conflicts and brainstorm ideas to recommend to the Department and Commission to resolve those conflicts. The purpose of the presentation is to brief the Commission on working group discussions and their common themes and recommendations for future consideration.

Regional Working Groups comprised of citizens representing a variety of recreational interests were created in 6 regions (all but Southwest). One to 3 meetings were held in each region for a combined total of 10 meetings. Forty-two (42) citizens representing trapping, bird dog hunting, hound hunting, recreational dog walkers, mountain biking, field trial, and dog training interests participated. In addition, representatives from the U.S. Forest Service, USDA Wildlife Services, and BLM also participated.

Input and recommendations varied among working groups and the level of specificity in recommendations also varied. The following recommendations represented themes common among most groups:

- Mandatory trapper education
- Restrictions in use of Conibear-style body-gripping traps on dry ground
- Increase set back areas from trails
- Information and education both for trappers and users

Chip Corsi, gave a demonstration of various traps.

The Commission directed staff to work on a proposal for consideration at the Commission's January meeting. Should the Commission select alternatives, they would then go through the negotiated rule making process that will include more opportunity for public input before alternatives can be adopted.

MISCELLANEOUS

Executive Session

14-52 Commissioner Corkill moved and Commissioner Naillon seconded a motion to hold an executive session pursuant to Idaho Code 67-2345(1)(f) to discuss pending litigation. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Will Naillon, Mark Doerr, Fred Trevey and Brad Corkill.

14-53 Commissioner Doerr moved and Commissioner Corkill seconded a motion to come out of executive session with no action taken. All Commissioners voted in favor.

14-54 Commissioner Naillon moved and Commissioner Corkill seconded a motion to adjourn. All Commissioners voted in favor.

Public Hearing

Chairman Fred Trevey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Commissioners Brad Corkill, Mark Doerr and Will Naillon present. Commissioner Kenny Anderson was excused. The Southwest and Southeast Region positions are vacant waiting Governor selection.

The following individuals provided public comment:

Chuck Felton, Leon Jadowski, Dennis Thornock, Terry Beck, Aspen Davis, Gary Power, Ken Cole, Frank Robinson, Jim Warner, Doug Sayer, Scott Allan, Bruce Bartow, Nick Rieth, Billijo Beck, Shane McAfee, Tyler Strickland, Bill Stephanisher, Brett Plummer, Mike Arrizubieta, Ron Rembelski, Rockie Walker, Jack Oyler, Doug Palmer, Jeron Benson, Dale W. Quigley, and Jim Bob Infanger.

Written comment was received from Larry Williams, Dennis Leonard, Marshall Ogden, David Silcock, Jeff Lathen, Sam Heald, Mike Gann, Salmon Chapter Idaho for Wildlife and individuals regarding a bear baiting proposal.

July 10

MISCELLANEOUS

Opening Comments

The Commission meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chairman Trevey. Commissioners Brad Corkill, Mark Doerr and Will Naillon were present.

Review of Public Comment

The Commission discussed and reviewed the comments from the public hearing. Director Moore noted that there were 26 individuals who testified. Testimony topics included: Support for the bighorn sheep auction and lottery tags, trapping, Boulder White Clouds Monument, mule deer in Unit 37, Wildlife Summit concerns, ISTS comments, Raven control, controlled hunts for youth, revenue options for the department, backcountry wolf predation, reduced cost for nonresident tags, bear baiting, LAP, and predator policy.

Consent Calendar

The consent calendar included the following items:

- Minutes March 19-20, and May 14-16, 2014
- Financial Report

14-55 Commissioner Doerr moved and Commissioner Corkill seconded a motion to approve the minutes and financial report as presented in the consent calendar. All Commissioners voted in favor.

FISCAL

FY16 Budget Request Update: Legislative Intent

Michael Pearson, Chief, Administration, reported that the Department has begun the planning process for preparation of the fiscal year 2016 budget request to be submitted to the Governor's office by September 1. Mr. Pearson noted that this is the second update provided to the Commission on how the Department expects to comply with Legislative Intent regarding its License Appropriations and projected License revenue (Appendix 47, Exhibit 46).

JFAC Legislative intent is to have License appropriation = License revenue by FY16 by:

- Setting revenue projections based on last 3 years of actual, taking into account current and approved legislation
- FY15 license appropriation within 105% of license revenue
- FY16 revenue = license appropriation

Commissioners Mark Doerr and Will Naillon served on a subcommittee, meeting with Department staff to better understand the budget process and how the dollars are spent due to the complexity of the budget.

Chairman Trevey noted that the Commission desire is to be kept updated and understand the foundation for the budget process.

RULES

Release of Bighorn Sheep Auction and Lottery Tags

Jeff Gould, Chief, Wildlife, reported that at Commission direction, the Bureau of Wildlife staff developed guidelines for selection of organizations competing for opportunity to offer wildlife auction and lottery tags. Two organizations have expressed interest in offering the bighorn sheep auction tag and bighorn lottery tags in recent years. When there are multiple bidders, Wildlife Bureau staff review and score all applications for the auction and lottery tags to assist in selecting which conservation groups receive these special wildlife tags to market through lottery or auction. As of June 20, 2014, the Department had received one proposal for the auction tag from the Wild Sheep Foundation, and one proposal for the lottery tag from Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation.

The auction tag sells for the highest price during odd-numbered years when the tag may be used in Game Management Unit 11 in Hells Canyon. The auction tag sold for high values of \$180,000 in 2005 and \$150,000 in 2013. The winning bid for the tag was \$70,000 in 2012 and \$80,000 in 2014 when the tag could not be used in Unit 11. Since 1988, the auction tag has generated \$1,754,225 for bighorn sheep research and management.

Proceeds received from the auction tag are currently used to identify causes for, and solutions to, disease in bighorn sheep. The funds may be used to match other funding sources resulting in a substantial multiplier effect.

The lottery tag has generated as much as \$86,246 in 2006 and \$81,635 in 2004 when the tag was valid in Unit 11, and has generated between approximately \$40,000 and \$57,000 during even-numbered years when the tag is not valid in Unit 11. Since 1992, the sale of tickets for the lottery tag drawing has generated \$995,805. Lottery-generated funds are used to support the Department's Wildlife Health and Forensic Lab Program.

14-56 Commissioner Naillon moved and Commissioner Doerr seconded a motion that the Commission award the 2015 bighorn sheep auction tag to the Wild Sheep Foundation and the 2015 bighorn sheep lottery tag to Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation. All Commissioners voted in favor.

MISCELLANEOUS

Direction for Animal Damage Control Board

Jeff Gould reported that the Idaho statute annually appropriates \$100,000 of Department funds to the State Animal Damage Control Board for control of predatory animals and birds. Idaho statute authorizes the Commission to direct how these funds are to be used.

Typically, \$50,000 has been directed by the Commission to support Wildlife Services activities identified in the MOU between the Department and the Animal Damage Control Board for general control of predatory animals.

The additional \$50,000 has been directed for specific wildlife management activities such as intensive coyote removal in conjunction with the Mule Deer Initiative, wolf control in Elk Zones at or below management objectives, or feral pig control in the Bruneau Valley.

Staff recommendation: Staff recommends directing the expenditure of \$50,000 for general predatory wildlife control consistent with the MOU and \$50,000 for raven control in specific areas associated with the Departments raven control project.

Mr. Gould presented a copy of the letter recommended by staff to the ADCB regarding allocation of funds (Appendix 47, Exhibit 47).

14-57 Commissioner Doerr moved and Commissioner Naillon seconded a motion that the Commission adopt staff recommendation for the expenditure of \$100,000 allocated to the Animal Damage Control Board. All Commissioners voted in favor.

Commission Direction of Wolf Control Board Funds

Idaho statute annually appropriates up to \$110,000 of Department funds to the State Wolf Control Fund for the management and control of depredate wolves in the state of Idaho. Idaho statute authorizes the Commission to direct how these funds are to be used.

The 2014 Legislature established a governing board to provide funds for the management and control of depredate wolves in Idaho (Chapter 53, Title 22, Idaho Code).

Staff recommendation: Staff recommends directing the expenditure of \$54,565 for the management and control of wolves in areas with department approved Predation Management Plans.

Mr. Gould presented a copy of the letter recommended by staff to the Wolf Control Board regarding allocation of funds (Appendix 47, Exhibit 48).

14-58 Commissioner Naillon moved and Commissioner Doerr seconded a motion that the Commission adopts staff recommendation for the expenditure of \$54,565 allocated to the Wolf Control Fund for FY15 to be used for ungulate wildlife protection. All Commissioners voted in favor.

RULES

Nonresident Deer/Elk Tag Quotas

Annually, the Commission establishes quotas for total nonresident deer and elk tags.

Staff Recommendation:

For the 2015 hunting season, staff recommends no change from the existing (2014) nonresident deer and elk tag quotas of 14,000 regular or white-tailed deer tags, 12,815 A or B elk tags for all zones, and 1,500 white-tailed deer tags.

14-59 Commissioner Doerr moved and Commissioner Naillon seconded a motion to adopt the staff recommendation on quotas for 2015 nonresident deer and elk tags. All Commissioners voted in favor.

Outfitter Set Aside Quota

The Fish and Game Commission annually establishes a quota on general 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 the total nonresident deer and elk tag quotas, not an addition to the 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.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends no change to the existing 2014 nonresident deer and elk tag outfitter set-aside quotas and recommends the following quotas for 2015:

1,985 deer tags (regular or white-tailed)

2,400 elk tags (A or B tags for all zones)

14-60 Commissioner Corkill moved and Commissioner Naillon seconded a motion to accept the staff recommendation for establishing quotas for the 2015 deer and elk outfitter set-aside tags. All Commissioners voted in favor.

Season Setting: Dove/Sandhill Cranes

Jeff Knetter, Upland Game and Migratory Bird Coordinator, presented the proposals (Appendix 47, Exhibit 49).

Staff recommendation: Mourning Doves:

Increased season length and bag limit from 2013: 9/1 – 10/30 and a bag limit of 15 and possession limit of 45.

Staff recommendation: Sandhill Cranes:

In 2013 there were six hunt areas in Idaho. To accommodate the reduced harvest allocation, **the Department proposes the following actions:**

- Eliminate Bonneville County hunt.
- Decrease the number of tags available in hunt areas 1, 2, 3 & 6. See table below.
- Reduce the season bag limit from four to two.
- All tags (240) will be offered on a first-come first-served basis at any vendor as per the allocation below.

Hunt Area	Season	Tags
1 - Bear Lake	9/1-9/30	160
2 - Teton	9/1-9/15	22
3 - Fremont	9/1-9/15	35
4 - Bonneville	9/1-9/15	0
5 - Jefferson	9/1-9/15	10
6 - Swan Lake	9/1-9/30	13

14-61 Commissioner Naillon moved and Commissioner Corkill seconded a motion to accept the staff recommendation for the 2014 Mourning Dove and Sandhill Crane seasons. All Commissioners voted in favor.

Season Setting: Fall Chinook Salmon

Ed Schriever, Chief, Fisheries, presented the proposal (Appendix 47, Exhibit 50) to the Commission.

2014 FALL CHINOOK SALMON FISHERY PROPOSAL

Opening Dates

The following areas open to fishing for fall Chinook salmon on September 1, 2014

- Snake River - from the Washington/Idaho border upstream to Hells Canyon Dam.
- Clearwater River - from its mouth upstream to Memorial Bridge
- Salmon River – from its mouth upstream approximately three-fourths of a mile to Eye of the Needle Rapids

Closing Dates

- Clearwater River, Salmon River and that part of the Snake River downstream of Cliff Mountain Rapids (River Mile 246.7) - Closure upon further notice or October 31, 2014, whichever comes first.
- Snake River – from Hells Canyon Dam downstream to Cliff Mountain Rapids (River Mile 246.7) - Closure upon further notice or November 17, 2014, whichever comes first.

LIMITS

- Bag (Daily): Six (6) adipose fin-clipped adult fall Chinook salmon.
- Possession: Eighteen (18) adipose fin-clipped adult fall Chinook salmon.
- Season: There is no limit on the number of adult fall Chinook salmon that can be harvested during the fall Chinook season. (All adult Chinook salmon that are harvested must be recorded on a salmon permit.)
- Jack fall Chinook salmon: Anglers can retain adipose-clipped jack fall Chinook salmon if they have a valid salmon permit. There are no daily bag, possession or season limits for jack fall Chinook salmon. Anglers are not required to record jack fall Chinook salmon on their salmon permit.

Definitions Pertaining to Limits

- Adult Chinook Salmon – Adult Chinook salmon are 24 or more inches in length.
- Jack Chinook Salmon – Jack Chinook salmon are less than 24 inches in length.

14-62 Commissioner Doerr moved and Commissioner Corkill seconded a motion to approve the proposed 2014 Fall Chinook salmon fishing season. All Commissioners voted in favor.

FISCAL

Discounting Nonresident 2nd Deer / Elk Tags

Jeff Gould presented the recommendation to the Commission (Appendix 47, Exhibit 51).

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission establishes a nonresident tag quota through Rule (IDAPA 13.01.04.600) that limits the number of nonresident elk and deer tags sold in Idaho each year. This quota has remained at approximately 12,815 nonresident elk and 15,500 nonresident deer tags since 1990. The rule also allows resident and nonresident hunters to purchase a nonresident elk or deer tag at the nonresident price, as a second tag, if any remain in the nonresident quota after August 1.

Between 2004 and 2008, Idaho sold all of the nonresident elk and deer tags in the nonresident tag quota including those purchased as a second tag. In 2009, nonresident tag prices increased 12% for elk and 17% for deer. Immediately, nonresidents purchased fewer elk (-18%) and deer (-26%) tags, and the decline in sales continued for a 5-year period before leveling out in 2012. In 2013, nonresidents purchased approximately 38% fewer nonresident elk and deer tags compared to 2008.

The 2009 price increase initially had a larger effect on hunters that purchased second tags (2nd elk tags -24%, 2nd deer -40% in 2009) but the demand for second tags has increased steadily during the last 2 years and may set a new peak in sales by next year.

Preliminary sales information for 2014 suggests that nonresident elk and deer tag sales will continue to increase (5-10%). At this pace, there should be at least 4,000 nonresident elk and deer tags (unsold) in the quota at the end of the year. This creates an opportunity to further stimulate 2nd tag sales through a price discounting strategy.

Given there is already a growing interest to purchase a 2nd deer or elk tag and the nonresident elk and deer quota has not been issued since 2008, applying a discount to the 2nd tag price will likely stimulate additional sales and potentially grow revenue to further support license funded programs.

Idaho Code 36-408 authorizes the Commission to establish a limit annually as to the number of each kind and class of licenses, tags, or permits to be sold or issued. The Commission is also authorized to discount license, tag, and permit fees to encourage the purchase of licenses in consecutive years and to encourage the purchase of multiple tags and permits (I.C. 36-415).

Under the current Marketing Research & Communications project (contracted with SPYCH Market Analytics), an exploratory questionnaire was recently completed by more than 600 license-buyers to better understand what compels them to buy certain licenses and tags, including a general sense about secondary deer and elk tags priced at 25% - 50% discount for deer and 19% - 36% for elk. Preliminary survey information will be forwarded to the Commission prior to the July meeting once it is available from SPYCH.

Commission discussion followed.

14-63 Commissioner Doerr moved and Commissioner Corkill seconded a motion to authorize discounts for 2014 nonresident deer and elk tags purchased as a second tag. The discounted price for deer shall be \$199.00, excluding vendor issuance fee, beginning August 1, 2014. The discounted price for elk shall be \$299.00, excluding vendor issuance fee, beginning August 1,

2014. With the understanding that the Commission intends to evaluate the biological, social, and revenue impacts of these discounts at its July 2015 or an earlier meeting. All Commissioners voted in favor.

(Commission action memorialized by order number 14-27.)

Super Hunt and Super Hunt Combo Application Fee Proposal

Jeff Gould presented the proposal to the Commission (Appendix 47, Exhibit 52).

Most western state fish and wildlife agencies offer special big game auction and lottery programs to generate revenue for license funded conservation programs. Idaho's Special Control Hunt Program is established by Rule (IDAPA 13.01.08) and offers forty (40) big game tags through a random lottery draw process in Idaho. Lottery applications in Idaho are sold for individual species (Super Hunt tags-10 deer, 10 elk, 10 pronghorn, 2 moose tags) and for combined species (Super Hunt Combo-there are 2 tag packages that bundle 1 deer, 1 elk, 1 pronghorn, and 1 moose tag per package). These tags are good for any controlled hunt for each species. Funds from this program are used to support a sportsman access program.

Discount prices are established by Commission Order under Idaho Code Section 36-415. The Commission considered several options for pricing of applications to optimize revenue.

14-64 Commissioner Corkill moved and Commissioner Doerr seconded a motion to adopt a uniform, discounted fee for each Special Controlled Hunt application, incorporating the vendor issuance fee. The fee for each 2015 "Super Hunt" special Controlled Hunt application will be set at \$6.00, including the vendor issuance fee; and the fee for each 2015 "Super Hunt Combo" Special Controlled Hunt application be set at \$20.00, including vendor issuance fees. All Commissioners voted in favor.

(Commission action memorialized by order number 14-28.)

LANDS

Gregg Servheen, Wildlife Program Coordinator, presented the following proposals to the Commission.

Rock Creek Land Acquisition

The acquisition is fee title to 10,394 acres of contiguous land, of which the majority is encumbered by a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) easement. The property serves as the base for 10,000 acres of adjacent Bureau of Land Management (BLM) grazing allotments and the purchase includes 31 cfs of water rights tied to the property. The property is mostly undeveloped with only a couple of ranch outbuildings and approximately 54 miles of dirt road/two tracks that includes 14 miles of county road as well as 8 miles of water delivery ditch, 4 water diversion structures, and 6 impoundments.

The property provides habitat for wintering deer and elk and serves as migration/transition habitat for mule deer as well as pronghorn fawning and summer range. The property has both existing populations of pygmy rabbits and active sage-grouse leks. Rock Creek runs the length of the property, which contains 24 miles of perennial fish-bearing stream and a total of approximately 89 miles of stream and riparian habitats. The property has been in Access Yes for numerous years and receives the third highest use of Access Yes properties in the Magic Valley Region.

The Rock Creek property is valued at \$13.4 million dollars. A \$3.8 million dollar GRP easement from NRCS was placed on the property under the original owners – the Rinker family. After encumbering the property with the NRCS easement, the Rinker Family sold the property to the Wood River Land Trust (WRLT) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for \$2.2 million dollars, donating the remaining \$7.4 million in value. The Department has a signed purchase and sale agreement with WRLT to purchase the property for \$1.1 million plus closing and due diligence costs. The remaining \$1.1 million required for purchase of the property is intended to come from an application by the WRLT for funding by the Blaine County Land, Water, and Wildlife Program (LWWP) for the purposes of purchase of the property by the Department from WRLT. The Blaine County Commission has not yet finalized approval of these funds but the LWWP Advisory Board, Blaine County Commission, and public comment have been supportive of proceeding with the funding and of Department purchase of the property in partnership with Blaine County.

Upon closing, the Department's ownership of Rock Creek will be subject to the following conditions: adherence to the terms of the NRCS GRP easement including the property be grazed by livestock for benefit of wildlife and sage-grouse, some identified roads be limited to non-motorized access, and water rights be managed as designated in the easement. Blaine County funding will be contingent upon a signed Grant Agreement with Blaine County that would require the County approve any sale of the property by the Department, no subdivision of the property, return of proceeds to Blaine County from sale of the property in proportion to their investment, and establishment of an endowment to manage the property with any property revenue exceeding \$1 million. Further, the Department will sign a Conservation Agreement with Blaine County, WRLT, and TNC to develop a Charter for and establish a Rock Creek WMA Advisory Committee that will include no less than those partners and members of the public.

The Conservation Agreement outlines development of a grazing, access, and water management plan for the WMA and the role of the Advisory Committee in assisting Department management through development of the WMA plan in the first 2 years after taking title. The Advisory Committee will provide input and recommendations regarding management of the WMA as well as help collect public input, help improve Department capacity for Rock Creek WMA management, and help revise the WMA plan as needed/required

Ms. Trever indicated that in this agreement, the Wood River Land Trust has conditioned the purchase on obtaining additional funds of approximately \$1,100,000 at closing from the Blaine County Land Water and Wildlife Program or a similar source. The purchase and sale agreement does not impose any terms and conditions related to the provision of this additional funding on the Commission's ownership or Department's management of the property.

14-65 Commissioner Doerr moved and Commissioner Naillon seconded a motion that (1) the Commission approve the purchase of the Rock Creek property, in accordance with the terms of the purchase and sale agreement dated March 19, 2014, between the Department and the Wood River Land Trust, and (2) the Department may only agree to modify that agreement's terms or further encumber the property with Commission approval. All Commissioners voted in favor.

Pack River (Wilson) Land Donation

The proposal is to accept a 10.3-acre parcel from a private landowner that wishes to donate the property to the Department. The property is in Bonner County approximately four miles north of highway 200 on Lower Pack River Road. There are no improvements on the property. The property seasonally floods and is composed of forested wetland habitat. The property is located to the west of the Pack River and is close to the Pend Oreille WMA.

Acquisition of this property will add to the land base of the Pend Oreille River Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Acquisition of this property will also fulfill the Department's land acquisition objectives by protecting wetlands for the benefit of waterfowl production. Moose, deer and several non-game wildlife species will benefit from the protection of this property as well.

In the future, opportunity may exist to obtain other parcels adjacent to this ownership thereby providing protection to the riparian and wetland habitats along both banks of the Pack River and making it contiguous with the Pend Oreille WMA.

14-66 Commissioner Corkill moved and Commissioner Doerr seconded a motion for the Lands Committee to proceed with the acquisition. All Commissioners voted in favor.

FISCAL

Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation Bond Lease

Sharon Kiefer, Deputy Director, reported that the Department and the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation (IFWF) entered into a lease agreements for space for the Jerome, Lewiston, and Salmon Regional Offices several years ago supported by a bond financed by IFWF. Each lease includes a purchase option. Authority to enter into the lease agreements was originally authorized by the Commission.

IFWF has opportunity to refund the bond taking advantage of improved interest rates. This requires action by the Commission to approve amendment of the current lease agreements and approve refunding the bond.

IFWF bond refunding is proposed to benefit Department finances and property ownership. Commission approval is required to complete the refunding process and amend current leases as necessary. Commission approval is executed via a Commission Resolution.

14-67 Commissioner Naillon moved and Commissioner Corkill seconded a motion to approve lease amendments via a Commission Resolution approving the purposes and activities of IFWF to refund the bond financing the Jerome, Lewiston, and Salmon Regional Offices and authorizing the execution of the amended lease agreements for these projects as needed to reflect bond refunding. All Commissioners voted in favor.

LEGISLATION

Legislative Proposals

Sharon Kiefer, Deputy Director, briefed the Commission on the Department package of legislation ideas for the 2015 Legislative Session. Submission to the Executive Agencies Legislation System (EALS) for Governor Office approval is required. Agency ideas must be electronically submitted to EALS by August 1, 2014. Governor-approved ideas must be drafted as legislative proposals and submitted to EALS by September 15. The EALS timeline does not apply to legislative ideas that may be sponsored by legislators or non-executive agencies.

The Commission has responsibility to provide policy direction for Department-sponsored legislation. The proposals are as follows:

- Increase Vendor Issuance Fee to \$2.00
- Increase resident license, tags, permits, increase nonresident daily fishing fees and create trophy species control hunt application fee. This is the same proposal as approved by the Commission in 2013.
- Remove set-aside provision from duplicate licenses. Same proposal as approved by the Commission in 2013.

14-68 Commissioner Doerr moved and Commissioner Naillon seconded a motion to accept the staff recommendation for policy approval for legislation sponsored by the Department. All Commissioners voted in favor.

MANAGEMENT PLANS

Management Plan for Conservation of Wolverine

Beth Waterbury, Regional Wildlife Biologist, presented the final draft of the Management Plan for the Conservation of Wolverine in Idaho (Plan) for Commission approval.

In January 2013, the Department initiated a conservation planning effort for the wolverine, a species classified in Idaho as a protected nongame animal and Species of Greatest Conservation Need. In February 2013, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) proposed to list the contiguous U.S. Distinct Population Segment of North American wolverine as threatened under

the Endangered Species Act, citing the primary threat of habitat and range loss due to climate change. The Service anticipates making a final listing decision by August 4, 2014.

Over the past year and a half, the Department, in coordination with the Governor's Office of Species Conservation, has continued to engage in listing deliberations while developing the Plan. Staff presented an update and preview of the draft Plan to the Commission at the May 12, 2014 meeting, prior to opening a 21-day public comment period, May 19-June 9. Staff reviewed and modified portions of the Plan based on public input. The final draft Plan is completed and presented for Commission review and action.

14-69 Commissioner Naillon moved and Commissioner Corkill seconded a motion to adopt the final draft of the Management Plan for the Conservation of Wolverine in Idaho. All Commissioners voted in favor.

REPORTS

Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation (IFWF)

Dan Deagle, Treasurer, IFWF Board, presented a briefing on the history and mission of the Foundation (Appendix 47, Exhibit 53). The Foundation was initially formed as an entity to facilitate the development of the Morrison Knudsen Nature Center (MK Nature Center) and to provide funding support for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and other non-profit organizations with shared missions.

Backcountry Conservation Areas

Coby Tigert, Northwest Region Field Manager, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, stated that the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership is a national conservation organization dedicated to providing all Americans quality places to hunt and fish. Mr. Tigert presented a briefing on Backcountry Conservation Areas (Appendix 47, Exhibit 54).

Migratory Bird Status Update

Jeff Knetter, Upland Game and Migratory Bird Coordinator, provided a briefing on the upcoming 2014 season setting (Appendix 47, Exhibit 55). According to the U.S. and Wildlife Service's habitat and population trend report, habitat conditions were mostly improved or similar to 2013, due to average to above-average annual precipitation.

Waterfowl season in Idaho are set within the confines of a Federal Framework.

- Within this framework, states in the Pacific Flyway may choose seasons between the Saturday nearest September 24 and the last Sunday in January.
- Early indications suggest a Liberal season framework that would include a 107-day season with a 7-bird daily bag limit for ducks; no change.

- A liberal season is also indicated for geese that would include a 107-day season with a 4-bird daily bag limit for Canada geese.

Formal recommendations will be presented at the August Commission meeting.

Sage-grouse Status Update

Don Kemner, Wildlife Program Coordinator, stated that the Commission sets seasons for sage-grouse in August. Mr. Kemner reviewed the 2014 status of Idaho's sage-grouse populations as well as preliminary proposals for 2014 season (Appendix 47, Exhibit 56).

The Department will scope two options with the public:

- A hunting season that is the same as in 2013
- A hunting season that is the same as in 2013 with the exception that Zone 5A would be closed.

To clarify comments from the public meeting on raven control Mr. Kemner provided a report on what the Department did this past season for raven control (Appendix 47, Exhibit 57).

- The 2013 Legislative Intent directs the Department to spend up to \$100,000 on raven control and study the impacts on sage-grouse.
- The Department received a permit from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to control ravens in three areas.
- The Department requested U.S. Wildlife Services to conduct the control action.
 - Wildlife Services has to complete NEPA before they can take ravens to protect sage-grouse. Wildlife Services received many public comments during the NEPA process. The NEPA works has not been completed.
 - Wildlife Services was not available to conduct raven control in 2014.
 - Therefore, the Department conducted raven control during 2014 by shooting adult birds and removing nests, eggs, and nestlings during the sage-grouse nesting season.
 - Officers removed 12 adult ravens, 17 nests, and 69 eggs and nestlings in 2014.
- The Department spent approximately \$23,000 in 2014 on the permit process, planning, control action, and raven surveys.
- The Department intends to carry out Legislative Intent in 2015.
- Wildlife Services continues to work on NEPA to determine if they will be available to conduct raven control to protect sage-grouse in 2015.

RULES

Landowner Appreciation Program Negotiated Rulemaking

The Department is advancing a nonbiological rule proposal through the negotiated rulemaking process for the Landowner Appreciation Program. The Department concluded five public meetings to discuss the proposed rule change and received on-line comments during a 19 day

comment period. There were 78 individuals who attended the public meetings and the Department received more comments than suggestions.

Sal Palazzolo, Private Lands / Farm Bill Coordinator, provided a briefing and summary of the on-line comments submitted on IDFG's 2014 Landowner Appreciation Program Proposal Version 2 (Appendix 47, Exhibit 58). As of June 6, 2014 approximately 177 people took the time to provide IDFG with comments on its proposed Landowner Appreciation Program. The Department is preparing a reconnect document to summarize what was heard at the meetings and on-line comments and it will be sent to all that participated.

Commission direction to staff is to analyze the survey results and develop a Department recommendation to be presented at the August 11, 2014 meeting. The current rules for LAP remain in place.

REPORTS

Boulder- White Clouds Briefing

Jim Unsworth, Deputy Director, reported that there has been considerable public discussion concerning requests for the President to designate the Boulder-White Clouds area in Central Idaho as a national monument. Because there is not an official proposal for such a designation, the Commission asked the Department to provide a briefing on information the Department has received regarding this issue and to discuss potential considerations related to state wildlife management authorities and state-regulated hunting, fishing, and trapping activities (Appendix 47, Exhibit 59).

A draft commission position statement on the Boulder- White Clouds was provided to the Commissioners for their consideration and adoption (Appendix 47, Exhibit 60).

14-70 Commissioner Naillon moved and Commissioner Corkill seconded a motion to formally adopt the commission position statement on the Boulder -White Clouds. All Commissioners voted in favor.

Director's Report

- Director Moore referenced the written Director's report in the agenda book.
- Upcoming events include the WAFWA Conference July 17-21 in San Antonio.
 - Director Moore serves as the Chair for the Sage-grouse Executive Oversight Committee.
 - The committee is a joint Federal/State committee under WAFWA sponsorship.

Commissioner Reports

Panhandle Region, Brad Corkill

- Wolf capture efforts have resulted in 5 new wolves being collared in Unit 6 and one in Unit 4.

- Ethyl, the grizzly bear from Montana that moved into the Coeur d'Alenes and then the St. Joe early this past winter showed up near the Idaho/Montana border near St. Regis this spring, moved over to the west end of the Coeur d'Alene/St. Joe divide near St. Maries. More recent reports she was located in the Bob Marshall Wilderness area.
- Kokanee fishing on Lake Pend Oreille has been off the charts and folks are having good time fishing.
- Commissioner Corkill asked for some data on the practicality of a snare that will hang on to a wolf but allows a grizzly bear to escape. Commissioner Naillon states a breakaway device on a snare is your first line of defense.
- Comment from the public meeting regarding the gentleman who commented that his friend was no longer going to teach hunter education due to the dynamics changing for the program. The Department no longer fails anyone and no live fire for the students.
 - Commissioner Naillon stated that the pass or fail for students is at the discretion of the instructor. Deputy Director Kiefer will follow up with a briefing on the Hunter Education program for Commissioner Corkill.

Magic Valley Region, Mark Doerr

- Fisheries staff is preparing to rotenone the Hagerman WMA West Highway Pond, Anderson Pond # 3 and # 4, and Riley Pond in the next few weeks. A salvage order has been invoked to allow the public to remove the game fish.
 - The plan is to eliminate carp, remove sediment from Riley Pond, and emphasizing excavation near shorelines to open fishing opportunities for the public.

Salmon Region, Will Naillon

- Bret Stansberry will be working with a landowner on a hazing program.

Clearwater Region, Fred Trevey

- The new Regional Supervisor for the Clearwater Region is Jerome Hansen.

Director Moore reported for the Southeast Region that the Pelican Program has successfully achieved its management goal.

Commissioner Reports stand as written (Appendix 47, Exhibit 61).

MISCELLANEOUS

Planning for Next Meeting

The Commission discussed scheduled items for the upcoming meetings.

Executive Session

14-71 Commissioner Corkill moved and Commissioner Doerr seconded a motion to hold an executive session pursuant of subsections (b) and (c) of Idaho Code Section 67-2345 to discuss personnel and lands.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Brad Corkill, Mark Doerr, Will Naillon and Fred Trevey.

The executive session ended at 6:30 p.m. with no official action taken.

Adjournment



Fred Trevey
Chairman



Virgil Moore
Secretary