

# Wildlife Summit Report



## IDAHO WILDLIFE SUMMIT



Idaho's Wildlife Belongs To You



Idaho Fish and Game

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# From the Director

## THE IDAHO WILDLIFE SUMMIT

**T**he Idaho Wildlife Summit was a watershed event for the future of wildlife conservation in our state. This report is an overview and initial summary of the large amount of input you provided during the three-day event.

With the use of Internet streaming and other technologies, we were able to gather input simultaneously from participants in seven locations throughout the state. At the peak on Saturday, 500 people attended, and 3,000 others watched and participated on-line. This makes the Idaho Wildlife Summit one of the largest public participation events in Idaho's history.

Here's a breakdown of participation by region and date:

	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
<b>Coeur d'Alene:</b>	25	26	16
<b>Lewiston:</b>	20	30	12
<b>Boise:</b>	209	190	140
<b>Jerome:</b>	58	56	30
<b>Pocatello:</b>	35	51	34
<b>Idaho Falls:</b>	98	121	71
<b>Salmon:</b>	24	26	19
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>322</b>

In addition, people from 33 other states and six foreign countries watched the live stream online.

The Summit's speakers shared messages about the important role wildlife conservation has played in the history of our state and our nation. The messages were inspiring, thought-provoking and well worth sharing with those who were unable to attend. The enclosed DVDs include talks by Shane Mahoney, Toni Hardesty, Jim Posewitz, Dr. Tara Teel and yours truly. Also included are Sunday's panel discussion section and closing comments. You will also be able to share and enjoy several videos that played during the Summit, including Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter's Summit challenge.

This report contains summaries of the input you and your fellow participants provided. These include the Trading Posts, Idaho Café, Fishing Poll, Summit Evaluations as well as the chat room discussion. The report also contains the executive summary of the citizen's survey I referred to in my presentation on the Summit's opening night. Finally, the report contains an accounting of what the Summit cost and how it is being paid for.



Virgil Moore  
Director, Idaho Fish and Game

The Idaho Wildlife Summit was the beginning of what I firmly believe will be a long-term discussion about improving wildlife conservation in Idaho. A goal of the Summit was to build enthusiasm, and we certainly accomplished that. Now we need to use this enthusiasm as we work together for wildlife conservation. Please take some time to review this report and think about common themes that you see. As I said in an e-mail last month, we plan to continue the momentum the Summit fostered as we work together to ensure our wildlife heritage for our children and grandchildren.

*Virgil Moore*



# Introduction

## THE IDAHO WILDLIFE SUMMIT

The Idaho Wildlife Summit convened this summer and facilitated a conversation among Idaho hunters, anglers, trappers and other wildlife conservationists. Discussions and presentations covered the current status and direction of wildlife management in Idaho, the need to keep it relevant to the changing values, needs, and interests of Idahoans, and to hear and understand what they expect from their state wildlife management agency.

### Participants heard and watched presentations by:

- Virgil Moore, Fish and Game Director.
- Jim Posewitz, Orion: The Hunters' Institute.
- Toni Hardesty, The Nature Conservancy – Idaho.
- Tara Teel, Colorado State University.
- Shane Mahoney, Conservation Visions.
- Various videos presented throughout the program.

In addition, informational “Trading Posts” allowed face-to-face conversations with Fish and Game staff members at the booths focused on Fish and Game’s programs that support the objectives in Fish and Game’s strategic plan, The Compass.

### Participants were invited to provide input throughout the Summit by:

- Visiting the Trading Posts and completing comment forms.
- Participating in the Idaho Café conversations with other participants.
- Participating in polling sessions using keypad polling devices to respond to 70 questions posed throughout the Summit.
- Completing evaluation forms to provide feedback on the Summit.
- Participating in live “chat” discussions via the Internet throughout the event.

The report includes the executive summary from survey of 1,059 randomly selected Idaho residents conducted earlier this year for the Idaho Fish and Game. The survey, typically conducted every 10 years to determine their opinions on wildlife management and wildlife-related recreation opportunities in the state, and to assess attitudes toward Fish and Game. Many of the questions were worded identically and asked on the Fishing Poll and the survey. This report summarizes the input provided by the Idaho Wildlife Summit participants.

## WHAT IS THE IDAHO CAFE

The Idaho Café was selected to provide an opportunity for all participants to have time to talk about what matters to them with old friends and with new people. We hoped the technique would help all discover how much they shared with other Summit participants.

This technique featured small conversations among four people per table about compelling questions. After each question, participants were invited to move to a new table, allowing all to talk with folks from new and different perspectives.

Participants were invited to record on butcher paper what they shared in responding to each question before moving on. This portion of the report shares those responses to the five questions discussed during the Idaho Café.

1. What did you want to talk about when you decided to attend this summit?
2. What wildlife legacy do you want to leave for future generations?
3. In order to leave the wildlife legacy that you think is appropriate for the future, who needs to be included in the conversation?
4. How can we engage that diversity of perspectives in conversations that matter?
5. What can all of us do, individually and collectively, to benefit wildlife conservation in Idaho?

The Idaho Café produced a feast of insights – more than 1,000 statements per question. To capture these conversations and understand them, Fish and Game:

- Recorded every statement verbatim into a database. The database is available on the Fish and Game website.
- Had each statement read line-by-line by

a team of Fish and Game staff members to ensure each was understood.

- Summarized the statements in this report by themes or categories and their relative frequency in the conversation, allowing the results to shape our next steps.

To represent this statewide conversation by question, summaries are presented three ways: a “Wordle,” a bubble graphic and written summaries.

For each question we chose one or more of these mechanisms to represent what Idaho Café participants talked about. We combined visual and narrative approaches for presenting this information so those who read this report can, as much as possible, “see” and “hear” what was said during the Idaho Café.

### Wordle

**A** Wordle ([www.wordle.net](http://www.wordle.net)) is a computer program that creates a unique visual representation, or “word cloud,” from text. We used the conversations by participants in response to each question. Every statement was entered into Wordle. The resulting image captures the conversation – the outpouring of words from every table across the state. The size of the words displayed in the Wordle is determined based on the relative frequency each was used. The larger and bolder the words, the more frequently they were mentioned. The Wordle shows visually what the conversations sounded like.

“I’m a grandpa who is concerned about youth being involved in conservation and outdoor things. They are being babysat by school sports and electronics, without parental involvement.”

# Idaho Café

“Open our mouths; speak to others. Let our leaders hear our concerns.”

## Bubble Graphic

Because of the diversity and complexity of responses for questions 4 and 5, we felt a Wordle alone was not enough to depict the conversations. To help capture all that was said, we grouped the responses into themes or categories for each question. We used a bubble graphic to show the relative frequency of major topics. The larger the bubbles, the more frequently the theme or category arose in the conversation. That doesn't imply certain categories are more heavily weighted or more important than others. Rather, this is simply a method of summing the thousands of statements and depicting the information in a manageable and meaningful way.

## Written Summaries

The written narratives provided for each question summarize what was said during the Idaho Café conversations. The first three questions were goal-oriented, while questions 4 and 5 focus on what is needed to achieve these goals. Our narrative tries to summarize what we heard from participants in response to each question. Finally, we felt it important to share specific statements recorded during the Idaho Café. They represent the values, the ideas, and the diversity of voices of Idaho Café participants.





# Idaho Café

## QUESTION 1:

“How can we be more inclusive – so that all Idahoans understand their role in conservation?”

Many participants expressed a desire to discuss issues such as wildlife conservation, preservation of the hunting and fishing heritage, connecting youth to the outdoors and funding. Many were concerned about the status of big game herds in Idaho. And many said that new and additional funding would be key to accomplishing the important tasks.

### Here is some of what was said:

- “Strategies that will improve success rates (hunting, fishing).”
- “What can Fish and Game do to improve operational efficiencies, organization, and image?”
- “Simplify the regulations; they are currently daunting for both fishing and hunting.”
- “Why is the traditional funding plan not working now, and what is needed?”
- “I am concerned about deer and elk herd declines.”
- “Wildlife management decisions need to be based on biology, not on emotions.”
- “Change needs to come from all sides.”
- “Want to talk about the changes to wolf management (2011 vs. 2012) regulations – science-based vs. political.”
- “How do we get sustained income that is not politically driven?”
- “What is the public’s role?”
- “Finding a balance and working together to solve conservation issues.”





# Idaho Café

## QUESTION 2:

**B**elow are sample statements of the wildlife legacies people wish to leave for future generations. They are in no particular order, preference or priority.

- “All people who care about wildlife working together.”
- “Salmon return to Idaho and spawn.”
- “Private landowners are engaged in the conservation of land and habitat.”
- “Nature is close to home.”
- “An integration of forest and wildlife management.”
- “Science as an objective management tool that helps reduce the politics in wildlife management.”
- “The ability to feed your family with wildlife.”
- “Diverse and healthy ecosystems dominated by native species that are interconnected.”
- “True wilderness where people can experience silence, serenity, and solitude.”
- “Fish and Game serves all Idahoans and educates them about wildlife.”
- “A strong culture and structure for citizen involvement.”
- “There is a balance between predators and prey, and predators play their natural role.”
- “Effective wildlife management by public agencies, consistent with public interests.”
- “A legacy that is huntable, fishable and watchable, and is treated in an ethical manner, supported by healthy habitats.”
- “Mutual respect between hunters and nonhunters about how to appreciate and sustain wildlife.”
- “A larger and more stable funding model for the future, paid for by all users and enjoyers.”
- “A standard for sportsmen where the hunter gives back.”
- “Clean water and clean air.”
- “Idaho communities that sustain a connection to nature.”



# Idaho Café

## QUESTION 3:

**In response to the question about who to involve, Summit participants were full of suggestions:**

- Hunting and fishing communities.
- Scientists, biologists.
- Non hunting public.
- Idaho Fish and Game.
- Sporting groups.
- Legislators.
- Wildlife advocates, consumptive and nonconsumptive.
- Nonresident and resident license buyers.
- Public and private landowners.
- Tribal governments.
- Both urban and rural stakeholders.
- Farmers and ranchers.
- Everybody who uses state and federal lands for any purpose.
- Land managers that must implement policies which will affect the future.
- Climate sciences professionals.
- Conservationists.
- City planners, parks and recreation staff.
- All citizens with an interest in wildlife and basic knowledge of sound wildlife conservation.
- Political decision makers.
- Big shot enviro's (NGO's) with K street offices in Washington, D.C.
- People who have experience in the wild.
- Educators at all levels.
- Non-profit and non-government organizations.
- The people in the middle.
- Agriculture, timber, logging, mining, hydroelectric power.
- State legislature and politicians (to listen).
- Landowners, government, state, federal, tribal, consumptive sportsmen and nonconsumptive, hikers, bikers, nongame advocates.
- Disinterested people.
- Teachers, moms, youths, nontraditional Fish and Game constituents.
- The only entity not included is NONE.
- Everyone needs to contribute: state, federal, sportsmen, anglers, trappers, wildlife watchers, conservation groups.
- Adjacent states.
- Wildlife watchers.
- Future generations.
- Reasonable people.
- Kids and grandkids.
- Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, youth groups.
- Artists and film makers.
- Returning veterans.
- Old-timers with historical perspective on what Idaho was and how it has changed.
- Everyone: utilitarian, pluralist, mutualist, distanced.
- Media, not just social media.
- We need hunters, anglers, IDFG, federal agencies, state legislature, Congress, selected NGO groups (The Nature Conservancy, Audubon, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, etc.).
- Keep the Feds out!
- Every interested Idaho resident.
- Average "Joe."
- God - he created it perfectly, in balance and knows all things, ask him.
- Everyone! Federal, state, general public, politicians, NGO's, special interest groups, local businesses involved in outdoor equipment sales, private landowners.
- Wildlife and conservation lobbyists.
- People who are enjoying the fish and wildlife resources but not paying for it.
- Those who care enough to do something about it.
- Sporting goods manufacturers.
- Outdoor tourism industry.
- Outfitters and guides.
- Everyone.
- But... many aren't interested enough.
- The Wildlife Summit is a good start.
- Idahoans should have the ultimate say in the legacy of wildlife in Idaho.



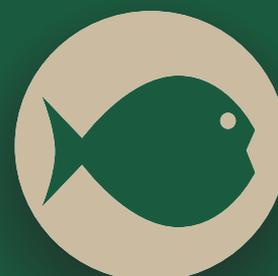
# Idaho Café

## QUESTION 4:

**F**rom what Wordle “sounds” like, meetings, education, media, outreach, forums, information, perspectives, involvement, schools, stakeholders, groups, and people are the main elements to ensure a diversity of perspectives and future conversations happen in a way that matters.

### Here is some of what was said:

- “Fish and Game needs to build (rebuild) trust with involved publics.”
- “Be willing to address the tough and controversial issues in open forums.”
- “Use technology to interact with all interested parties: social media, TV.”
- “Relay the sense of urgency to the diverse groups.”
- “Propose a radical change in the model of funding and invite public input (everyone will become a stakeholder to some extent).”
- “Mentor kids to be good stewards of conservation.”
- “Realize that none of us gets 100 percent of what we think we want.”
- “Create a clear understanding of the challenges that wildlife is facing to engage the general public, including young people.”
- “Hold public forums - quarterly? regionally? Mini-versions of this wildlife summit, but addressing more specific issues – perhaps in conjunction w/IDFG commission meetings – or pending legislation discussions.”
- “Train volunteer facilitators to promote civil discussions on controversial topics.”
- “Collaboration works if people feel their views matter. Give ‘room’ to diverse groups working together to make decisions that matter.”



**FISHING**



**HUNTING**



**WATCHING**

# Idaho Café





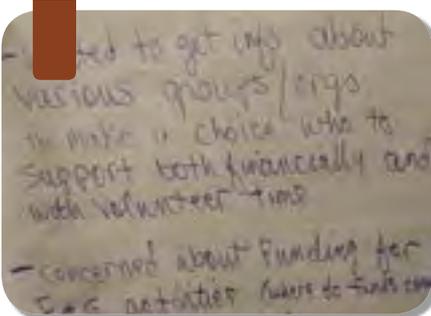
# Idaho Café

## QUESTION 5:

Participants said people can do many things right now – individually or collectively – that would make a difference to wildlife, including finding new funding sources, supporting habitat projects, mentoring youth in the outdoors, supporting education programs and public outreach, and preserving the hunting and fishing heritage.

“Fish and Game needs to figure out how to make this dialogue sustainable.”

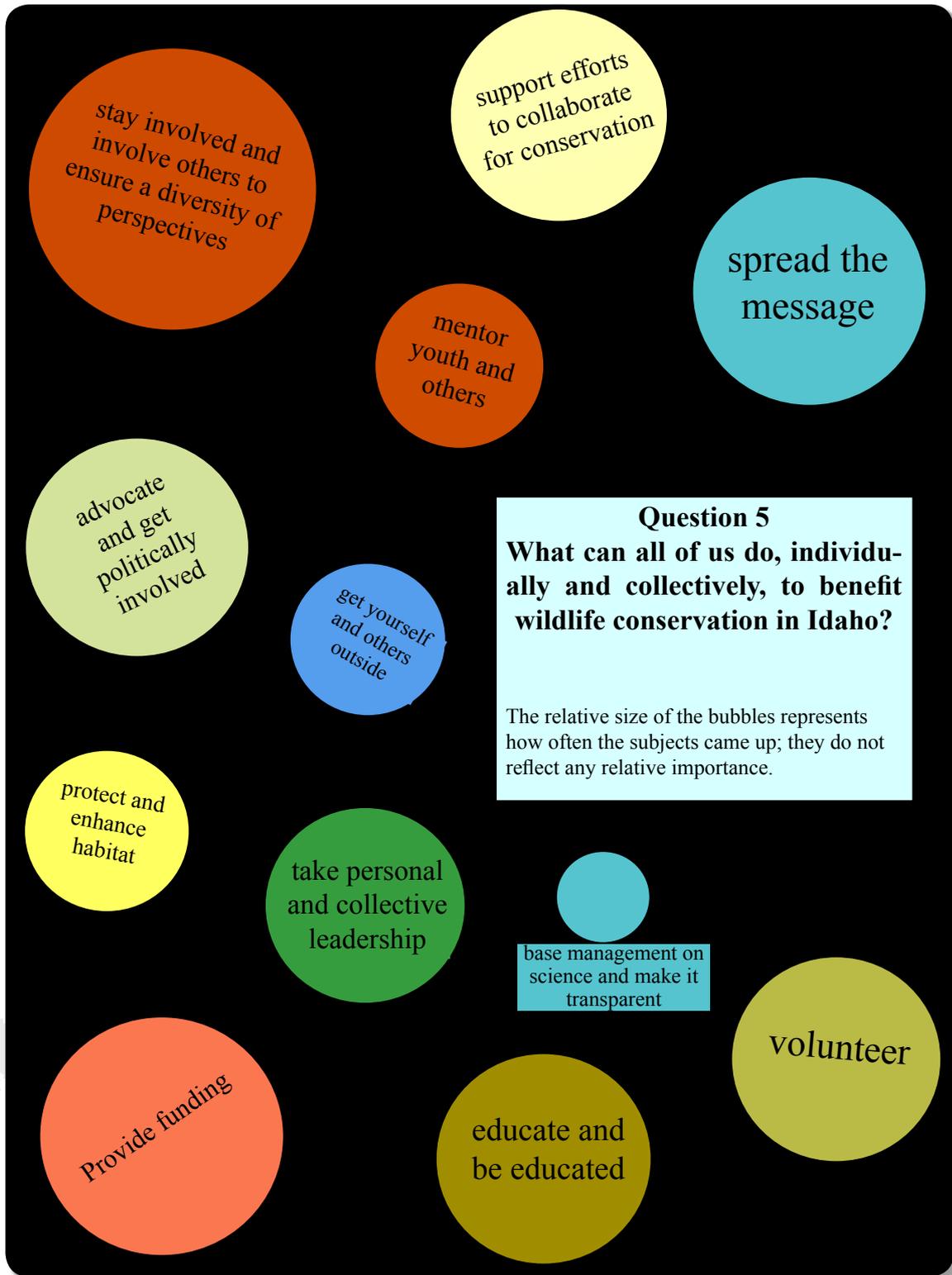
### Here is some of what was said:



- “Join the organizations that you support and be an active participant.”
- “Broaden the understanding of North American Model.”
- “Utilize social media to connect with ‘younger’ folks.”
- “Become educated and knowledgeable on wildlife issues; then become involved.”
- “Appreciate all values of wildlife – food, ecology, economic, recreation, tourism, etc.”
- “Increase the number of wildlife habitat areas for urban public and others to visit.”
- “Build a new coalition of folks to support wildlife management in Idaho that is broader than hunters and fishermen.
- “Fear complacency in our youth!”
- “Find one small thing you can do and do it.”
- “Respect diversity of points of view with an eye toward finding common ground and finding solutions. Keep an open mind.”
- “Be a voice for conservation and an advocate for fish and wildlife.”
- “Create a different funding source to promote management of all wildlife species.”
- “Take a legislator camping.”
- “Keep the conversation going, especially with the youth.”
- “Continue to talk to each other – collaboratively and respectfully.”

# Idaho Café

## QUESTION 5:



## PERSONAL REFLECTION FORMS

**P**articipants in the Idaho Café had an opportunity to provide additional comments after the session using “Personal Reflections” forms. Thirty-seven people submitted these forms throughout the state. This section presents excerpts from the forms illustrating issues and sentiments not necessarily reflected in the responses on the flip chart papers.

### Question 1: “What did you want to talk about when you decided to attend this summit?”

- “Apex predators should not be managed as equal wildlife under Fish and Game policies.”
- “Ecosystem connectivity allowing migration of wildlife between Yellowstone and Washington and Oregon, etc., including bison, wolverine, and grizzly.”
- “One thought I was not able to convey during the Idaho Café was the need for sportsmen to be more supportive of the work accomplished by Fish and Game. Stop griping about Fish and Game having new pickups. Providing good equipment for personnel to do their work is not a waste of money.”
- “Take the questions asked on Friday regarding the importance of wildlife, hunting and fishing to randomly selected high schools across the state and ask them of 17- and 18-year-olds. I believe their answers will be different. Also add the question: ‘Do you hunt or fish, and why not.’ We need to understand why we are not retaining the younger generation.”
- “Fish and Game needs to centralize their efforts on consumptive use and turn nongame species over to another agency.”
- “(Constitutional amendment) HJR2 is necessary as the right to hunt, trap and fish is constantly under attack.”
- “I would be happy to eliminate trapping in Idaho.”
- “Please continue efforts to promote civil discussion and solutions for wolves.”
- “Wildlife management plans should be developed in coordination between Idaho Fish and Game and the counties and adopted by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. Implementation programs should be cooperatively carried out. Agency budgets should earmark funding to carry out the programs.”
- “My group wanted decisions to be made by ‘Idahoans’ even on federal land. But my perspective is that those federal lands are supported by dollars from taxpayers nationwide. They should have a say in how their lands, which they rarely see benefit, are managed.”
- “There are egregious hunting violations committed every day of big game seasons. I want our conservation officers to concentrate on catching those real wrong-doers rather than ticketing a hunter for riding an ATV on an open trail on public lands.”
- “A fish and wildlife habitat trust fund should be established in each region. I believe many older people would contribute a percentage of their estate to an ongoing trust fund dedicated to habitat. Local regional staff should determine how funds should be spent.”
- “I came to learn about and discuss funding on public lands. Would have appreciated more

“Share science-based (not politically-based) education and public information.”

# Idaho Café

## PERSONAL REFLECTION FORMS

details about current funding and information on current plans for future funding.”

- “Restore genetically native fish populations in their original waters. Modify stocking programs to enhance native fish recovery throughout the state.”
- “To express my concern about the illegal shooting of wildlife – some of which happens in conjunction of legal shooting of ground squirrels (whistle pigs) when people shoot others species. My hope is that we can gradually foster more respect for nongame species.”
- “Our hunting population is aging yet motorized access is even more restricted.”

to enter into the conservation business rather than to manage the resource by utilizing (unreadable section) as outlawed by Fish and Game’s Mission and funding sources. Somehow I have the feeling that Fish and Game doesn’t really want to listen to sportsmen but would rather play politics.”

- “Funding alternatives to perpetuate proper management of natural resources.”
- “We need to do much better in our management of reservoirs for fishing. Drastic water level changes are killers – especially for spawning.
- “Game access for handicap. (Handicapped hunters should be) able to use mechanical to retrieve.”

“How can we get the nonhunting and fishing public, especially birders and photographers, to pay to support wildlife conservation?”

Let’s examine ways to increase access for handicapped hunters and fishermen.”

- “F&G should advocate and deploy every possible strategy to see to it that every power dam and every irrigation diversion dam on the Snake River and its tributaries is equipped with a well-designed, functional fish ladder.”
- “Enforcement efforts by Fish and Game officers should be focused on preventing violations, not catching violators. I am especially offended by the presence of enforcement officers along the river posing as fishermen. Current enforcement strategy generates ill will. Officers should not carry side arms. Officers should almost always wear uniforms.”

### Question 2: “What wildlife legacy do you want to leave for future generations?”

- “This whole Summit seems to be designed to lead participants towards approving Fish and Game

### Question 3: “In order to leave the wildlife legacy that you think is appropriate for the future, who needs to be included in the conversation?”

- “Even though politics is involved for budgets, the Legislature should stay out of the science based management of wildlife ecosystems. The whole ecosystem is related. You can’t favor one sector over another.”
- “We need to get our K-12 students and college students better educated regarding their responsibilities as citizens to be good stewards for our land and all wild animals. Only when we have a fully informed citizenry will we truly have everyone on board.”
- “Input should come only from citizens of Idaho in regard to decisions on wildlife.”

## PERSONAL REFLECTION FORMS

### Question 4: “How can we engage that diversity of perspectives in conversations that matter?”

- “We must insist that our legislators show interest in and sensitivity to wildlife issues. Politics generates a great public forum and gets stuff out in the open. However, I am not advocating for more legislative micro-management of Fish and Game.”

### Question 5: “What can all of us do, individually and collectively, to benefit wildlife conservation in Idaho?”

- “In the midst of a recession, what better time for an anti-tax government and an anti-tax legislature to step forward (backed by the 96 percent of Idahoans who say they support wildlife) and say ‘We are going to follow the example of the “Show-Me” state of Missouri and advocate a fractional sales tax to put wildlife management in

Idaho on a sustainable financial status. It’s time for a “Profiles in Courage” moment. Be bold!”

- “Make political candidates state their positions on wildlife conservation before elections.”
- “I had hoped we would do more brainstorming about new alternatives for funding the agency. Nor did we talk enough – or realistically enough – this weekend about balancing our wildlife legacy with human needs and desires for economic growth. People may support conservation of wildlife habitat in the abstract – until they find out that means they shouldn’t build a house/ranchette/subdivision/natural gas well, etc. wherever they want to.”
- “I am disappointed that though you want to know (per a Fish Poll question ‘How important is the preservation of threatened and endangered species?’) and thus make a show of concern for the issue. Not once during the entire session did I hear anyone specifically mention Chinook and sockeye salmon, and no one mentioned the real and obvious reason for the decline in their numbers (dams).”



# Idaho Café

## CONCLUSION

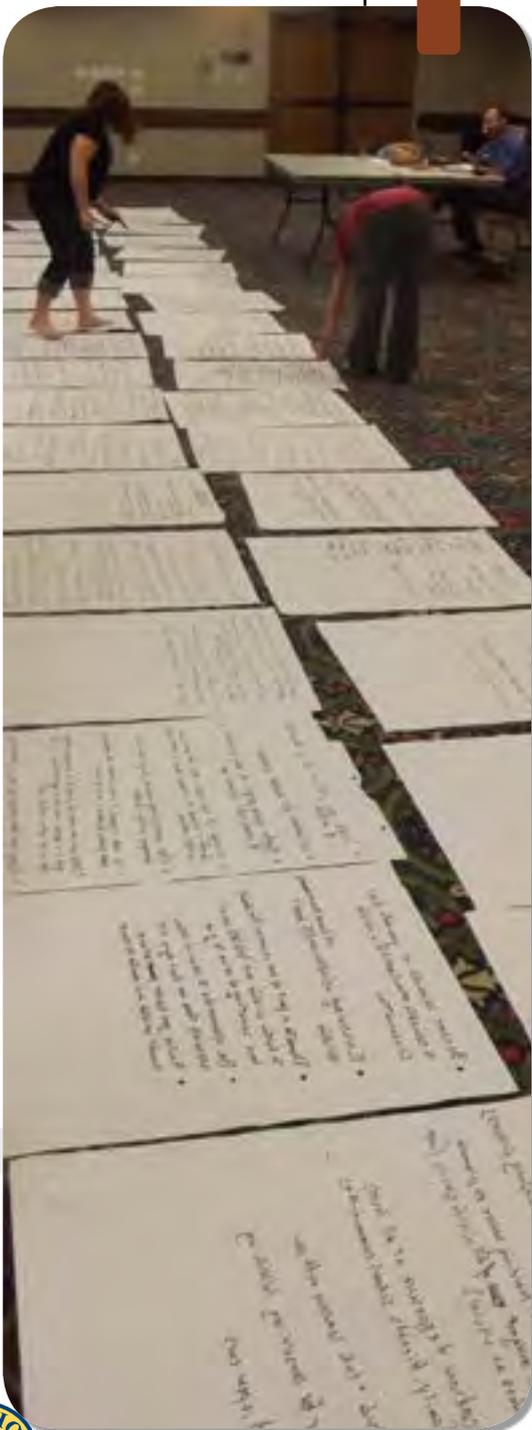
Overwhelmingly, we heard Idaho Café participants tell us they care deeply for Idaho's wildlife, and that they are willing and anxious to do what they can to ensure a vibrant future for wildlife in Idaho.

Education was a theme in almost every conversation and question. We heard that participants see wildlife education as important, especially for youth. And they want to see more youth connecting to the outdoors, not only through traditional hunting and fishing experiences, but also in terms of wildlife watching and appreciation and outdoor recreational opportunities. They said that contributing to the restoration, improvement and protection of habitats is important to the future of Idaho's wildlife and recreational uses of that wildlife. They want to see Fish and Game do more to make all this happen, and they said they are willing to help.

Fish and wildlife are important to participants, and they recognized that programs geared toward ensuring conservation and management cost money. Many understand that the traditional users, hunters and anglers, have shouldered the financial responsibility for more than 70 years and that the responsibility of a wildlife legacy can no longer fall completely on hunters and anglers. They said that all wildlife and its associated recreation are worth the cost. Participants told us that they are willing to pay more. And those who don't already pay told us they were willing to pay their fair share.

We heard that it is important to expand the diversity of perspectives with emphasis on support for finding common ground and collaboration among all Idahoans in decisions, opportunities and responsibilities related to wildlife. We heard that this collaboration should involve not just hunter and angler groups and other conservation organizations, but schools, local and county governments, and state and federal agencies.

This was the Idaho Café conversation. Participants listened to each other. We listened too, and we will work with all those who care about wildlife to continue the conversation, and to take the next steps toward achieving the objectives important to the wildlife legacy Idahoans want.



# Fishing Polls

## WHAT WERE THE RESULTS



smartphones + clickers = instant results

### Fishing Poll Results

The “Fishing Poll” clicker polling was a huge success. A total of 500 keypads were handed out at all seven sites, and 631 people participated. Results here are presented as statewide totals.

The facilitator asked a question, and participants punched in their answer on the keypad numbers, in about 20 seconds. A graph instantly came up on the screen summing the answers. In addition to the keypads, participants could also text in from a smart-phone or log their answers online. Some answered the questions on paper later.

The fishing poll questions were designed to generate interest and excitement among all of you participating in the Summit and to provide insights to Fish and Game and the Idaho Fish and Game Commission on strategic issues, general approaches of engaging Idahoans in wildlife conservation, and on funding approaches and mechanisms. That is, they wanted to understand how Idahoans – who hold a variety of values about wildlife – feel about the future of wildlife, about who and how to engage, and willingness to expand funding for wildlife conservation in Idaho.

Earlier this year a survey of 1,059 randomly selected Idaho residents was conducted for the Idaho Fish and Game to determine their opinions on wildlife management and wildlife-related recreation opportunities in the state, and to assess attitudes toward Fish and Game. Many of the questions were worded identically and asked on the Fishing Poll and the survey.

Fish and Game Director Virgil Moore was interested in whether Idahoans think Fish and Game’s current strategic goals, as articulated in The Compass, are still appropriate. Based on the results from the Summit Fishing Polls and the survey, Moore and the Commission will decide whether The Compass needs some revision and to what extent.

Insights also will help them decide whether to pursue new revenue sources as a means of achieving strategic goals.

# Fishing Polls

## Fishing Polls

### INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

“Citizenship is a verb!”

#### Information About You:

This series of questions was designed to understand participants. We wanted to know general demographics, such as age, children at home and gender, as well as level of participation in wildlife-based recreation and your engagement in sportsmen and/or conservation organizations.

- 73 percent male, 27 percent female. The men tended to be older than the women.
- 98 percent were residents.
- 68 percent live in a large or small city or suburban area.
- 66 percent reported representing themselves, 34 percent represented an organization, business, or government agency.
- 61 percent reported hunting in the past two years.
- 75 percent reported fishing in the past two years.
- 7 percent reported trapping in the past two years.
- 90 percent reported watching or photographing wildlife around the home in the past two years.
- 82 percent have purchased a hunting, fishing, or trapping license in Idaho in the past two years.

# Fishing Polls

## Fishing Polls

### YOUR PERSPECTIVES

#### Your Perspectives on Wildlife:

Participants were understandably very interested in fish and wildlife in Idaho – they cared enough to attend for three days on a nice weekend. But people contacted earlier on the public survey were similarly very interested. Clearly, Idahoans care deeply about wildlife.

- 99 percent said they were personally very or somewhat interested in fish and wildlife in Idaho.
- 99 percent said it was very or somewhat important for them to know that fish and wildlife exist in Idaho.
- 98 percent said Idaho’s abundant wildlife was very or somewhat important for them, as a reason to live in Idaho when compared to other reasons.
- 99 percent said it was very or somewhat important for them that fish and wildlife populations are properly managed in Idaho.
- 97 percent said it was very or somewhat important for them that people have the opportunity to view fish and wildlife in Idaho.
- 98 percent said it was very or somewhat important for them that people have the opportunity to fish in Idaho.
- 92 percent said it was very or somewhat important for them that people have the opportunity to hunt in Idaho.

#### Jim Posewitz’s presentation:

Jim Posewitz was interested in reactions to his ideas as well as getting a feel for how much Summit participants knew about the history of the conservation ethic in this country. Idaho Fish and Game and the Commission shared an interest in how many participants actively engage in doing things that benefit wildlife.

- In the past two years, have you participated in any activities that he would consider advocacy at the local level? – 81 percent said Yes.
- You personally can make a difference in conserving fish and wildlife. – 95 percent strongly or moderately agree.

“Conservation is not a dirty word.”

# Fishing Polls

## Fishing Polls

### FEATURED SPEAKERS



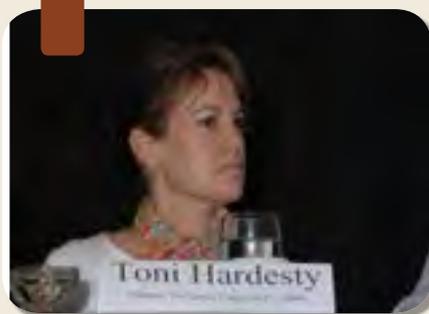
shane mahoney



jim posewitz



tara teel



toni hardesty

#### Toni Hardesty's presentation:

**W**e tried to get a sense of the scope of wildlife conservation – game, nongame, public and private lands – and a sense of willingness to collaborate in protecting wildlife habitat.

- How important do you think it is for all those interested in wildlife to work together to conserve habitat? – 98 percent said it was very important or somewhat important.
- How important do you think it is to focus on both game and nongame species? – 93 percent said it very important or somewhat important.
- How important do you think private lands are for maintaining habitat? – 99 percent said it was very important or somewhat important.
- How important do you think private donations are in supporting Idaho's wildlife? – 93 percent said it was very important or somewhat.

# Fishing Polls

“Take someone new on your next outdoor adventure!”

### Tara Teel's presentation:

We wanted participants to identify their wildlife value orientations, and then assess how well those different perspectives are considered in making wildlife policy decisions.

Tara Teel talked about four different types of people based on their values about wildlife. Utilitarians believe wildlife should be managed for human use; Mutualists believe that humans and wildlife are meant to live in harmony; and Pluralists are a mix of both kinds. Summit participants were asked to identify with one of the four types, and were divided among three types; none were in the Distanced category – they were all interested enough to attend. Participants were asked if the perspectives of Utilitarians and Mutualists were adequately considered in wildlife management decisions.

- Participants agreed that Utilitarian perspectives were being considered – 79 percent agreed, 12 percent disagreed.
- Participants did not agree that Mutualist perspectives were being considered enough – 38 percent agreed, 40 percent disagreed.
- Both groups suggested that their needs could be considered more, but that the needs of the other groups were already being considered enough.

Summit participants who identified themselves in each wildlife value type.				
Utilitarian	Mutualist	Pluralist	Distanced	Not Sure
35 percent	13 percent	48 percent	0 percent	4 percent

# Fishing Polls

## Fishing Polls

### Shane Mahoney's presentation:

**W**e wanted to get a sense of whether or not participants feel wildlife conservation is at risk, how urgent that risk feels, and the changing role of state and federal governments in wildlife conservation.

- Mahoney expressed his concern for the future of wildlife and has a great sense of urgency about that. – 90 percent shared his concern and his urgency, 8 percent shared his concern but not his urgency.
- Mahoney suggested that the broad coalition for conservation 120 years ago has fractured over time and that fracturing puts wildlife conservation in North America at great risk. – 91 percent agreed strongly or moderately.
- Mahoney suggested that wildlife will not exist in North America to the extent it has unless we adapt the conservation model of the last 120 years. – 94 percent agreed strongly or moderately.
- Do you believe that the role of state government in conserving Idaho's wildlife should increase or decrease? – 55 percent said it should increase, 32 percent said it should stay the same and 7 percent said it should decrease.
- Do you believe that the role of federal government in conserving Idaho's wildlife should increase or decrease? – 31 percent said it should increase, 31 percent said it should stay the same and 35 percent said it should decrease.

### What Issues are Important to Address?

Participants were asked 17 questions about Idaho Fish and Game's 2005 Strategic Plan (The Compass). Participants strongly indicated that all issues were quite important – 85 percent to 99 percent said very important or moderately important, except:

- Provide diverse trapping experiences – 42 percent important, 40 percent unimportant
- Provide opportunities to observe and photograph wildlife? – 78 percent important, 8 percent unimportant.

# Fishing Polls

We would like to know your opinions about the Fish and Game's funding – based on the statement that Fish and Game does not receive money from state taxes.

- Knowing this, do you support or oppose Fish and Game spending money from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses, tags and permits to fund conservation or management of species that are not hunted, fished, or trapped? – 68 percent support, 23 percent oppose.

Below is a list of various ways to contribute money to Fish and Game's Nongame Program, also known as the Wildlife Diversity Program. Please let us know if you contributed through any of these in 2011.

- The Nongame Wildlife Check-off donation on state income tax form? – 40 percent yes.
- The purchase of a bluebird, elk, or trout vehicle license plate? – 46 percent yes.
- A direct donation to the Fish and Game Nongame Trust Fund? – 3 percent yes.

Summit participants were much more likely to support Fish and Game through tax-checkoff and vehicle license plates than the general public.

- Do you think the state of Idaho should invest more, about the same, or less

resources in protecting fish and wildlife habitat, land, and water in the next 2 years? – 76 percent said more, 20 percent said same, 2 percent said less.

- Do you think the state of Idaho should invest more, about the same, or less resources in protecting species that are not hunted? – 49 percent said more, 34 percent said same, 14 percent said less.

Summit participants were much more likely to support Fish and Game in investing more in fish and wildlife habitat than the general public

- How supportive would you be of efforts to identify a new revenue source for funding of Department priorities as a whole? – 90 percent said support, 5 percent said oppose.
- How supportive would you be of efforts to identify a new revenue source specifically focused on funding for conservation of species that are not hunted? – 87 percent said support, 6 percent said oppose.

Finally, we would like to know how willing you are to stay engaged with what we started here at the Idaho Wildlife Summit this weekend.

- How willing are you to continue participating in the dialogue that began with this Summit? – 96 percent said interested, 2 percent said uninterested.

“If 96 percent of Idahoans appreciate wildlife, are 96 percent of them paying? If everybody paid, then everyone would be involved.”

# Citizen Survey

## WHAT WERE THE RESULTS

### Idaho Residents' and Sportsmen's Opinions on Wildlife Management and the Idaho Department of Fish And Game

Conducted for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game by Responsive Management

2012

*Executive Summary*

**Introduction and Methodology**

This study was conducted for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) to determine residents' and sportsmen's (i.e., hunters' and anglers') opinions on wildlife management and wildlife-related recreation opportunities in the state, and to assess attitudes toward the IDFG. The study entailed a scientific telephone survey of Idaho residents ages 18 years old and older to reflect the Idaho adult general population. Additionally, the data collection included interviews with licensed hunters and anglers as well as an oversample of 18- to 35-year-olds so that separate comparisons could be made between subgroups to the overall sample.

For the survey, telephones were selected as the preferred sampling medium because of the almost universal ownership of telephones

among Idaho residents (both landlines and cell phones were called). The telephone survey questionnaire was developed cooperatively by Responsive Management and the IDFG, based in part on a previous questionnaire implemented in the state. The software used for data collection was Questionnaire Programming Language (QPL). The analysis of data was performed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management.

Responsive Management obtained a total of 1,665 completed interviews: this total included 1,059 interviews with the general population of Idaho residents, as well as an oversample of 200 18-35-year-olds and a supplemental sample of 203 licensed hunters and 203 licensed anglers. Throughout this report, findings of

the telephone survey are reported at a 95% confidence interval (or higher). For the general population sample of Idaho residents 18 years old and older, the sampling error is at most plus or minus 3.01 percentage points; additionally, individual sampling errors were calculated for various cross tabulated subgroups within the overall sample, based on the respective sample and population sizes. The survey was conducted in June and July 2012.

### Fish and Wildlife Values

The overwhelming majority of Idaho residents (90%) are personally interested in fish and wildlife in the state, with most (61%) being very interested.

Respondents were read a list of values associated with fish and wildlife and asked whether they considered each

# Citizen Survey

## Citizen Survey

### FISH AND WILDLIFE VALUES

one to be important or unimportant. In general, values pertaining to the existence and management of fish and wildlife rate quite highly, while values focusing on the potential for fish and wildlife to act as interferences to other activities (gardening, landscaping, housing developments, etc.) are considered much less important. In the ranking by the percentage of respondents describing each value as very important, the top values include that fish and wildlife exist in Idaho (90% rate this as very important), that fish and wildlife populations are properly managed in Idaho (83%), that people have the opportunity to fish in Idaho (83%), that people have the opportunity to view fish and wildlife in Idaho (77%), and that people have the opportunity to hunt in Idaho (74%).

Meanwhile, the three values that focus on fish and wildlife as potential interferences are described as very important by less than half of the survey respondents: that fish and wildlife don't interfere with agricultural activities in Idaho, such

as farming or vegetable gardening (43% rate this as very important), that fish and wildlife don't interfere with outdoor hobbies and activities in Idaho, such as flower gardening or landscaping (33%), and that fish and wildlife don't interfere with development activities in Idaho, such as housing or energy development (29%).

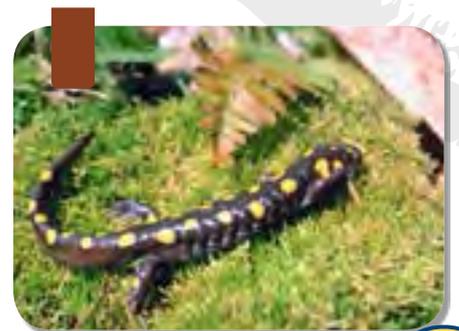
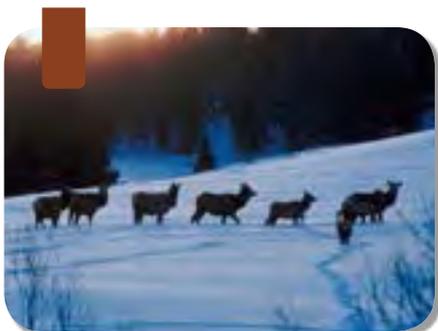
The overwhelming majority of Idaho residents (91%) consider the state's abundant wildlife as an important reason to live in Idaho when compared to other reasons; more than two-thirds (68%) consider this to be very important.

Respondents were read a list of eight statements regarding wildlife and land management priorities and asked whether they agreed or disagreed with each. In looking at the ranking by the percentage of respondents who strongly agree with each statement, there are four statements with which a majority of Idaho residents strongly agree: protecting fish and wildlife habitat also helps protect water quality (65% strongly agree with this); protecting fish and wildlife habitat also helps

protect places for people to recreate (62%); hunting and fishing are part of the scientific management of wildlife (60%); and you, personally, can make a difference in conserving fish and wildlife (56%).

The remaining four statements had well under half of the respondents strongly agreeing with them: the development of land should be restricted to protect fish and wildlife (39% strongly agree); the use of land should be restricted to protect wildlife (32%); efforts to conserve wildlife habitat in Idaho are adequate (28%); and landowners should be allowed to develop their land regardless of its impact on fish and wildlife (17%). Interestingly, when considering the percentages of respondents who strongly or moderately agree with each statement, all statements but one have a majority of Idaho residents agreeing with them: just 38% strongly or moderately agree that landowners should be allowed to develop their land regardless of its impact on fish and wildlife.

Faced with a choice between conserving fish and wildlife habitat



# Citizen Survey

## MANAGEMENT PARTICIPATION

and providing land for new homes in Idaho, nearly three-quarters of residents (72%) answer that conserving fish and wildlife habitat is more important. Meanwhile, just 10% say that providing land for new homes is more important, and 18% are unsure.

Respondents were asked to rate the

importance of four items: open space (i.e., undeveloped land), clean water, places to hunt and fish, and places to participate in outdoor activities in general, including walking, running, and enjoying nature. At the top of the ranking by the percentage considering each item to be very important is clean water (96% of respondents consider this to be very important), followed by places to participate in outdoor activities in general (78%), places to hunt and fish (71%), and open space (69%).

### Participation in Fish and Wildlife Management

A majority of Idaho residents (58%) agree that public opinion is seriously considered

in decision-making about fish and wildlife in Idaho, with 25% saying they strongly agree; at the same time, 32% disagree (18% strongly). The overwhelming majority of those surveyed (84%) have not participated in any kind of fish and wildlife management decision-making in Idaho in the past 2 years.

providing excellent customer service (78%).

A middle tier consists of issues with at least 60% of respondents rating them as very important: informing and educating the public about fish and wildlife (74%), involving Idaho citizens in decision-making about fish and wildlife management

“The overwhelming majority of Idaho residents (91%) consider the state’s abundant wildlife as an important reason to live in Idaho. . .”

### Opinions on Department Priorities

Respondents were read a list of 17 issues that the IDFG will face over the next 10 years and asked how important they considered each issue to be. In looking at the ranking by the percentage of Idaho residents who consider each issue to be very important, a top tier of issues, with at least three-quarters of respondents describing them as very important, includes dealing with diseases that affect fish and wildlife (86% of residents consider this to be very important), protecting fish and wildlife habitat (83%), maintaining populations of fish and wildlife at desirable levels (82%), enforcing fish and wildlife laws (82%), and

(71%), maintaining public support for wildlife-based recreation (71%), ensuring access to land and water for wildlife-based recreation (70%), conserving threatened, endangered, and other at-risk species (63%), and providing opportunities to observe and photograph wildlife (63%).

A lower tier of importance includes issues rated as very important by about half of those surveyed: providing opportunities for new participants



# Citizen Survey

## Citizen Survey

### DEPARTMENT PRIORITIES

in wildlife-based recreation (56%), maintaining populations of animals that are not hunted or fished (53%), improving funding to meet legal mandates and public expectations (52%), providing diverse fishing experiences (51%), and providing diverse hunting experiences (49%). Finally, just one issue on the list is markedly lower in importance compared to the other issues: less than a quarter of Idaho residents (22%) think that providing diverse trapping experiences is a very important issue on which the IDFG should focus.

#### Participation in, Interest in, and Opinions on Fish and Wildlife Related Recreation

Respondents were asked about their participation in four outdoor activities over the past two years in Idaho: more than three-quarters of Idaho residents (78%) have viewed or photographed wildlife around their homes during that time period, while 63% have taken a trip more than a mile from home to view or photograph fish or wildlife. Smaller percentages have gone fishing (53%) or gone hunting (35%). Note that these hunting and fishing participation rates closely correspond to rates determined in previous studies conducted in Idaho.

The median number of days engaging in trips taken more than a mile from home to view or photograph fish and

wildlife in Idaho among those who have done so is 14 days.

Respondents were asked about their interest in participating in each of the aforementioned outdoor activities in Idaho in the next 2 years: just over half of the residents surveyed (52%) are interested in going hunting, with 42% saying they are very interested; meanwhile, 46% are uninterested (36% very uninterested).

An overwhelming majority of Idaho residents (77%) are interested in going fishing in the next 2 years in Idaho, with 58% being very interested; about a fifth (21%) are uninterested, with 14% being very uninterested.

The vast majority of Idaho residents (86%) are interested in viewing or photographing wildlife around their homes, with 63% being very interested in doing this in Idaho in the next 2 years; just 12% are uninterested, with 7% being very uninterested.

A large majority of respondents (80%) are interested in taking a trip of more than a mile from home for the primary purpose of viewing

or photographing fish or wildlife, with 58% being very interested; meanwhile, 18% are uninterested (11% being very uninterested).

Residents who had hunted or fished in Idaho in the 2 years prior to the survey were asked how concerned they were that the fish and wildlife populations in the areas where they typically hunted or fished would decrease significantly in the next 10 years (note that the survey substituted the appropriate language into the question based on whether the respondent had hunted, fished, or hunted and fished). A large majority of Idaho residents (85%) are concerned about decreasing fish and wildlife populations in the areas where they engage in hunting and fishing, with over half (53%) being very concerned.

Those who had hunted or held a hunting license in the 2 years prior to the survey were asked whether they thought the quality of hunting has improved, stayed the same, or gotten worse in Idaho in the past 5 years, and two-thirds of respondents (66%) say it has gotten worse. Meanwhile,

“Virtually all respondents (97%) approve of legal, recreational fishing, with 81% voicing strong approval.”

# Citizen Survey

## PARTICIPATION

about a fifth (22%) say it has stayed the same, and just 5% believe it has improved.

Those who had fished or held a fishing license in the 2 years prior to the survey were asked whether they thought the quality of fishing has improved, stayed the same, or gotten worse in Idaho in the past 5 years, and just over half of this group (55%) say it has stayed the same. Otherwise, 13% feel that fishing in Idaho has gotten better, and 21% say it has gotten worse.



### Approval of Hunting, Fishing and Trapping

**T**he overwhelming majority of Idaho residents (90%) approve of legal hunting, with almost three-quarters (73%) strongly approving of it.

Virtually all respondents (97%) approve of legal, recreational fishing, with 81% voicing strong approval.

A majority of Idaho residents approve of legal trapping (61%), with 36% strongly approving of it. Meanwhile, over a quarter (27%) oppose it, with 18% in strong opposition.



### Participation in and Opinions on Department Funding

**R**espondents were read a list of three ways to contribute money to the IDFG's Nongame Program (also known as the Wildlife Diversity Program) and asked whether they had contributed in any of the listed ways in 2011. While more than three-quarters of respondents (78%) have not contributed in any way, notable percentages have purchased a bluebird, elk, or trout vehicle license plate (11%), donated through the Nongame Wildlife Check-off on a state income tax form (10%), or made a direct donation to the Nongame Trust Fund (4%).



In a question regarding whether respondents thought the state of Idaho should invest more, about the same, or less resources in protecting fish and wildlife habitat, land, and water over the next 2 years, opinion is divided between thinking that the state should invest more (43%) or thinking that the state should invest about the

# Citizen Survey

## Citizen Survey

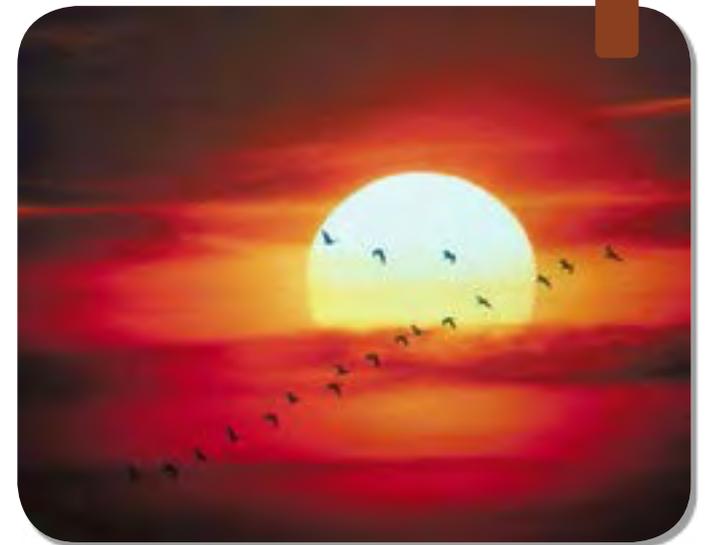
### HUNTING, FISHING & TRAPPING

same amount (43%). Just 3% of respondents think that the state should invest less, while 11% are unsure.

The survey informed respondents that the IDFG does not receive any money from state taxes and that the majority of its budget comes from hunting and fishing license sales and federal excise taxes on ammunition and hunting and fishing equipment, but that most of Idaho's wildlife are not hunted, fished, or trapped. After being informed of this, respondents were asked whether they supported or opposed the IDFG spending money from the sales of hunting and fishing licenses, tags, and permits to fund conservation or management of species that are not hunted, fished, or trapped. A large majority of Idaho residents support this (72%), with 39% strongly supporting it. However, 17% are in opposition, with 8% strongly opposing it.

#### Sources of Information on Fish and Wildlife Management

The top ways Idaho residents say they want to be provided information on fish and wildlife management are direct mail (23% prefer this method), newspapers (20%), television (19%), the Internet (14%), and e-mail (13%).



While about a third of the sample (34%) say they use social media like Facebook, Twitter, or YouTube frequently, a slightly larger percentage (36%) never use social media. Smaller percentages say they use social media sometimes (16%) or rarely (12%).

Among the 34% of Idaho residents who use social media sites, Facebook is overwhelmingly the most popular, with 84% saying they use it. A further 25% of social media users use YouTube, while smaller percentages use Twitter (5%), Google+ (4%), LinkedIn (2%), and Pinterest (1%).

“... more than three-quarters of Idaho residents (78%) have viewed or photographed wildlife around their homes during that time period, while 63% have taken a trip more than a mile from home to view or photograph fish or wildlife.”

# Trading Posts

WHO WE ARE  
WHAT WE DO

**Maintain/Improve Game Populations to Meet Hunting, Fishing, & Trapping Demands**

**Research, Inventory, & Monitor**

- Determine Population Status
- Estimate Carrying Capacity
- Understand Inter-Species Relationships

**Maintain/Improve Game Populations to Meet Hunting, Fishing, & Trapping Demands**

**Predation Management**

- Survey & Inventory
- Evaluate Predator & Prey Balance
- Implement Control Measures

**Ensure the Long-term Survival of Native Fish, Wildlife, & Plants**

**Native Species Management**

- Restore to Historic Areas
- Manage "At Risk" Species and 229 Species of Greatest Conservation Need
- Inventory Native Fish, Wildlife, & Plant Species

**Increase Public Knowledge of Idaho's Fish & Wildlife**

**Outreach & Volunteer**

- Multimedia Outreach
- Website
- Volunteer Programs
- Master Naturalist

**Reduce Disease Impacts on Fish & Wildlife Populations, Livestock, & Humans**

**Wildlife Diseases**

- Monitor, Diagnose, & Respond to Fish & Wildlife Diseases (CWD, EHD, Whirling Disease)
- Domestic & Wildlife Disease Transfer

**Increase the Capacity of Habitat to Support Fish & Wildlife**

**Protect & Enhance Habitat**

- Assist & Advise Private & Public Land Managers
- Inform Land Management Decisions

# Trading Posts

## WRITTEN COMMENTS

**P**articipants in the Wildlife Summit were encouraged to visit the “Trading Posts” distributed throughout the venues. These informational booths allowed face-to-face conversations with Fish and Game staff members.

The Trading Posts were on display during the course of the three-day Summit and consisted of display posters with information about the duties and work activities performed by Idaho Fish and Game and programs that support the objectives in Fish and Game’s strategic plan, The Compass.

Comment forms at each of the Trading Posts solicited feedback from participants. Each of the seven regions had five booths. A total of 89 comment forms were received statewide.

The forms included eight questions.

### **Did you have a chance to visit all the Trading Posts?**

**M**ost participants who turned in comment forms said they had a chance to visit all of the Trading Posts. Seventy-four percent answered Yes, 8 percent answered No, and 18 percent left this question blank.

### **Which of the areas or issues raised in the Trading Posts is most important to you? Why?**

**T**he most common response was to leave this question blank, 21 comment forms, or 24 percent left it blank.

When related areas or issues were grouped, several categories elicited the most responses to this question. Information and education, wildlife habitat related topics, and fish and wildlife management topics each represented 12 percent of the total comment forms submitted, and 36 percent overall when combined.

Ten percent of the comments noted that all of the areas or issues identified in the Trading Posts were equally important. Future funding, recreation issues, and citizen involvement represented 8, 8 and 6 percent respectively. The remaining 8 percent included other

topics, such as history, trading posts organization and design, and areas or issues not applicable to the question.

Specific responses within each category identified important Trading Posts issues, including:

- Educating and recruiting youths to participate in natural resource based recreational activities.
- Maintaining and restoring wildlife habitats; big game species management and predator-prey relationships.
- Ideas and concerns regarding future funding sources for Fish and Game.
- Providing additional access opportunities and access management issues.
- Keeping Idaho residents involved with decision making in Fish and Game.

# Trading Posts

## WRITTEN COMMENTS

### Which areas or issues do you think needs the most improvement or attention from Idaho Fish and Game? Why?

The most common response to this question was funding at 18 percent, followed closely by fish and wildlife management, information and education, and no written response at 16, 16 and 15 percent respectively.

Recreation related issues were identified on 13 percent of the forms, with 10 percent of responses identifying citizen involvement. Another 8 percent identified habitat related issues. The remaining responses included topics, such as enforcement and answers not applicable to the question.

Specific responses revealed several important issues:

- Including a broader funding base that would include nonconsumptive users.
- Broadening and improving the dissemination of Fish and Game information to the public.
- Increasing elk and mule deer populations throughout the state.
- More information and understanding of the impacts of predators to wildlife, particularly wolves' impacts on big game animals.
- Protecting all species of wildlife needs to improve.

### Which area or issue do you think presents the largest challenge to Idaho Fish and Game in fulfilling its mission? Why?

The predominant topics listed among the responses as the largest challenge include funding, 45 percent; public involvement, 19 percent; and politics or political influence,

11 percent. Other notable responses included: comments about too much federal oversight or control; youth recruitment; increased relationships with private landowners; and balancing management of game and nongame species. There was no response on 15 forms.

### What is the public's role in developing policies and programs for wildlife conservation and management? What are your ideas on how best to do that?

About 72 percent of the comment forms included an answer to this question. Some specific roles identified included:

- Informed voting on conservation issues.
- Participation and providing input at public meetings, such as the Summit.
- Participation in working and watershed groups.
- Lobbying and outreach.
- Volunteering in field and youth outdoor education activities.
- More collaboration with nongovernmental organizations.
- Financial support through new funding mechanisms.
- Providing feedback from observations while hunting and fishing to Fish and Game.
- Stewardship.
- Formation of watchdog groups.
- Education of less informed publics.
- Helping hire and steer Fish and Game employees.

Several participants want an opportunity to comment on wildlife management and conservation issues, but also cautioned that decisions should be based on sound biology and science. Someone referred to

# Trading Posts

## Trading Posts

### WRITTEN COMMENTS

that as a delicate balance. Some are concerned that Fish and Game does not listen to or act on input, or does not answer hunters' and others' questions. Others said that Fish and Game does not care about the concerns of the nonhunting public.

Some want Fish and Game to provide more information to the public, including specific biological information. Some noted that the public has a responsibility to become more educated and informed on wildlife management and conservation issues. Many brought up the need to educate youth about the outdoors.

Several mentioned that nonhunters should pay their part. One specific comment was: If all have a say, all should pay.

#### **Which areas or issues were you least familiar with?**

Only 36 forms contained responses to this question. Most of the answers cited what Fish and Game does on a daily basis, especially as it relates to fish and wildlife management.

More specifically: The operations and ongoing duties associated with Fish and Game's hatcheries; the sociological aspects of dealing with a diverse group of interested citizens when managing wildlife; fish and wildlife regulations; and nongame management obligations.

Two other categories were mentioned: learning about how Fish and Game is funded and the funding challenges that are ahead, and learning about the history of wildlife conservation in Idaho.

#### **Which areas or issues do you care least about?**

Only 37 comment forms included responses to this question.

The most common response, submitted by 9 participants, was that all of the issues identified at the Trading Posts were important and that they cared about them. Trapping, nongame issues, history, artificial stocking, wildlife viewing areas, and specific wildlife management strategies were some of the other categories identified.

#### **Is there anything that you think we missed or left out?**

About half of the 89 responses included responses. A common theme was more emphasis on increased or creative funding for Fish and Game, in most cases for nonconsumptive activities. At the same time, one or two responses expressed concern about Fish and Game turning its back on a hunting public willing to fund 100 percent of management expenses.

A few participants said information on wolves and predators was lacking. Others said more information on preserving habitat and potential large scale habitat impacts from a multitude of factors would have been beneficial.

#### **Other topics identified included:**

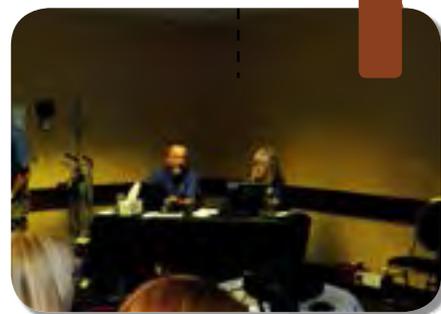
- More info on the importance of trapping.
- More discussion on the relationship of Fish and Game to USDA's Wildlife Services.
- Development of a credible big game draw system.
- More information on handicapped programs.
- Additional youth education programs.
- How to keep politics out of science.
- More information on Fish and Game's internal budget.
- More information on the relationship of wildlife-livestock diseases.

One person said that the tough issues of funding, wolves, grizzly bears and ethical hunting were not emphasized enough.

# Chatroom

## SUMMIT LIVE CHAT

“People are connected to nature – physically, intellectually, and spiritually.”



Using Internet-based live chat capabilities, people unable to participate in the Idaho Wildlife Summit in person, were able to offer comments throughout the three-day event.

Here's a breakdown:

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Total
<b>Participants:</b>	45	404	799	1,248
<b>Comments:</b>	287	529	824	1,640

An additional **363 participants** were able to review chat transcripts after the event closed.

In general, the conversation within the chat followed the speakers and events. Participants discussed points made by the speakers in real time. The chat dialog was placed next to the video presentation. The comments ranged from discussing ideas for generating additional funds for wildlife conservation to predator and prey management. Much of the discussion centered on finding common ground and various segments of Idaho's wildlife heritage, including hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing.

# Chatroom

## TYPICAL COMMENTS

Here are some of the chat comments that are somewhat representative of the various discussions:

### Comment from SteveR

“Focus on the big issues that unite us. Not doing that guarantees we all lose.”

### Comment from Cass

“#1, I am participating in the Summit to have a voice in how future management is decided, and to talk about the importance of public education of conservation for all users.”

### Comment from Rich

“It does appear that we have an impasse. We need more money in the kitty to manage wildlife both hunted and nonhunted. And we have torn feelings about wolves. So where do we get funds? Through hunt tags or through taxes? Do we really want more out of state hunters? Do we want more access to view the wild lands? Do we argue for our views or for the state or IDF& G? Seems to be no end?”

### Comment from Richard

“I would hope IDFG would bring Mr. Mahoney back and sit down and take heart to what he has to say.”

### Comment from Bob

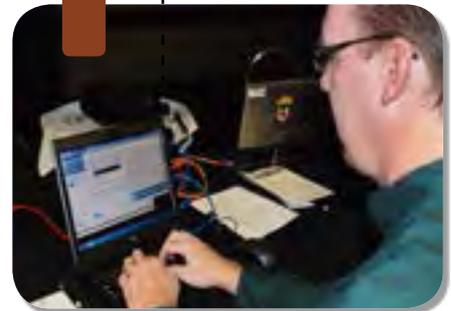
“Mr. Mahoney is the best thing that has come before the public since sliced bread. All his comments have been on track, he should be a speaker brought in to talk to our legislature on wildlife and conservation issues.”

### Comment from ell bow

“Listen to Mr. Mahoney. He is our common voice.”

### Comment from Joyce

“I have a hard time understanding what benefits this Summit is going to have on managing Idaho’s wildlife. IDFG has held town meetings for years in small towns across Idaho to supposedly get Idahoan’s opinions on changes they are already implementing, or plan on implementing. IDFG holds these town meetings to make it appear that the changes are supported by Idaho’s sportsmen and women, where in reality they are making the changes regardless of what the people of Idaho think or want. This Summit is just another town meeting on a much grander scale, and I would rather have seen the money used to put this Summit on go towards actually managing our wildlife. However this is not ever going to happen so long as Idaho is in bed with environmentalists who want to totally put a stop to hunting.”



# Chatroom

## SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

“A culture of concern and regard for the natural world.”

### Comment from SarahC

“Just because there are more wildlife viewers than hunters, does not mean IDFG will take priority on something over hunting. They are merely acknowledging this fact. Hunting will never be an extinct sport, I assure you.”

### Comment from Martin

“This is all very simple: My kids love to watch and see Idaho’s wildlife. However, even they realize that when dad goes out to hunt, food is put on the table. That is what made us who we are today. Remember our settlers founded this area on the same behalf!!”

### Comment from Wilderwest

“We purchase hunting and fishing licenses, wildlife plates, and contribute directly to non-game programs too. An Idaho wildlife stamp seems like a great idea. I don’t understand why we cannot give general funds to IDFG though. We do it for every other state department, right?”

### Comment from JackieM

“What if every IDFG employee took a 10 percent pay cut? They keep a vehicle a year or two longer.”

### Comment from Diane

“So happy to hear someone who seeks to build bridges and find common ground! Kudos to Tara Teel!”



# Evaluations

## THOUGHTS & OPINIONS

Idaho's Wildlife Belongs To You

### Thoughts and Opinions from the Summit Evaluation

**A**s part of the Wildlife Summit evaluation process, participants were asked to complete a Summit Evaluation form. This form asked a variety of questions ranging from how they learned about the event and whether they felt welcome, to their opinions about speakers and Summit activities. The following tables are a tally of responses from the completed evaluations.

Please answer the following questions.

Did you understand the overall purpose of the Idaho Wildlife Summit?	
Answer	Total
Yes	173
Somewhat	64
No	7
Left Blank	2
Total	246

Were you treated fairly by Fish and Game staff?	
Answer	Total
Yes	244
Somewhat	0
No	0
Left Blank	2
Total	246

Were you given enough opportunity to express your opinions?	
Answer	Total
Yes	180
Somewhat	53
No	7
Left Blank	6
Total	246

Would you participate in a public event/workshop like this again?	
Answer	Total
Yes	228
Somewhat	14
No	2
Left Blank	2
Total	246

“**W**hat is the future direction of Fish and Game?”

# Evaluations

Please rate the involvement elements of the Summit.

“Wildlife is the common ground – recognize it!”

Trading Posts	
Answer	Total
Terrible	0
Poor	5
Okay	61
Good	106
Great	37
Left Blank	37
Total	246

Fishing Polls	
Answer	Total
Terrible	1
Poor	7
Okay	34
Good	104
Great	74
Left Blank	26
Total	246

Idaho Café Conversations	
Answer	Total
Terrible	1
Poor	3
Okay	20
Good	92
Great	91
Left Blank	39
Total	246

“Be non-judgmental. Be open-minded and find common ground.”

# Evaluations

Please rate the Summit video presentations.

“Focus on conversations that matter.”

Idaho Wildlife Belongs to You	
Answer	Total
Terrible	1
Poor	5
Okay	31
Good	104
Great	44
Left Blank	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>

Reflections	
Answer	Total
Terrible	0
Poor	2
Okay	33
Good	93
Great	34
Left Blank	84
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>

Our Wildlife Heritage	
Answer	Total
Terrible	0
Poor	1
Okay	31
Good	104
Great	39
Left Blank	71
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>

Voices for Tomorrow	
Answer	Total
Terrible	0
Poor	2
Okay	30
Good	101
Great	37
Left Blank	76
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>

# Evaluations

**Please rate each of the Summit speakers.**

<b>Virgil Moore</b>	
Answer	Total
Terrible	0
Poor	1
Okay	18
Good	113
Great	66
Left Blank	48
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>

<b>Toni Hardesty</b>	
Answer	Total
Terrible	1
Poor	3
Okay	20
Good	103
Great	78
Left Blank	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>

<b>Tara Teel</b>	
Answer	Total
Terrible	2
Poor	6
Okay	51
Good	97
Great	51
Left Blank	39
<b>Total</b>	

<b>Jim Posewitz</b>	
Answer	Total
Terrible	0
Poor	7
Okay	32
Good	81
Great	66
Left Blank	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>

<b>Shane Mahoney</b>	
Answer	Total
Terrible	0
Poor	1
Okay	8
Good	21
Great	178
Left Blank	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>



# Evaluations

**Please rate each of the logistical elements of the Summit.**

Summit pre-registration	
Answer	Total
Terrible	0
Poor	2
Okay	15
Good	104
Great	99
Left Blank	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>

Refreshments that were provided	
Answer	Total
Terrible	0
Poor	1
Okay	18
Good	71
Great	132
Left Blank	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>

Check-in at the Summit	
Answer	Total
Terrible	0
Poor	0
Okay	12
Good	85
Great	129
Left Blank	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>

Program/Workbook	
Answer	Total
Terrible	0
Poor	0
Okay	19
Good	116
Great	86
Left Blank	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>

Master of Ceremonies	
Answer	Total
Terrible	1
Poor	4
Okay	33
Good	104
Great	77
Left Blank	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>

**Question 9: What can you do to support the wildlife legacy you want to leave?**

Statement
185 said: "I want to continue to be a part of this discussion."
97 said: "I want to become more involved in some way."
71 said: "I would like to learn more about volunteering for Idaho Fish and Game."

# Evaluations

## Evaluations

### What Participants Told Us

In addition to asking participants to rate various aspects of the Summit, they were asked to provide feedback to specific questions. They were not shy about providing that feedback. We received many positive comments as well as some equally important criticisms. Many offered suggestions for moving forward with our conversation about the future of wildlife management in Idaho. All the comments help us make this conversation more meaningful to all who care to participate. Here are some representative responses for each question:

#### What worked well for you during the Idaho Wildlife Summit?

“The opportunity to interact with other citizens and seeing that others are just as passionate as I am about Idaho’s wildlife.”

“Ability to hear many voices.”

“I enjoyed the Idaho Café and the chance to discuss important issues with other Idahoans.”

“Fishing polls could have fished deeper.”

“Having the satellite programs was great. We could just go to a local spot instead of Boise.”

“Café was a nice way to get people talking.”

“Great speakers! Public participation via technology.”

#### How might we improve future public events/workshops?

“Strive for more participation: consider your timing of the events, market, as much as possible – first to hunters/fishermen – than non-hunters/fishermen.”

“Reach out to younger audience participation.”

“More clarity of purpose.”

“Reach out to a broader audience, Audubon, local hunting groups, land trusts. Focus on them as leaders.”

“Condense summit to 2 days, and not on Sunday.”

“Involve more congressional, state legislators and youth.”

“Town hall meeting locally with volunteer help. Now how do you get people to attend?”

“Do workshop early in the year – Feb/March.”

# Evaluations

## What are the two or three interesting things you heard at the Idaho Wildlife Summit – things you might share with others who were not here?

“The need to engage youth in the outdoors.”

“Importance for everyone to be involved and educated on all aspects of conservation.”

“Broad agreement that we want to get more people into nature, for consumption and non-consumptive activities.”

“Funding sources much more complex and fracture than I ever knew.”

“Sportsmen and environmentalists will have to work together as much as they don't like each other. No one else cares.”

“Fish and Game needs help in securing more funding, particularly for non-game and small game management.”

“Collaboration and its strength, the urgency of the need. How similar the goals of all the parties are and that we need to put conservation of wild places and wild things in the right ad first place it deserves.”

“The Summit, especially, Shane Mahoney's remarks, has given me the confidence that hunters and fishers must lead the third transition of wildlife conservation and that we should proceed with courage and not fear we will succumb to the California model.”

“Conservation is a citizen's responsibility - Shane Mahoney.”

“Wildlife does not only exist for consumptive use but it offers other values to Idaho citizens that are irreplaceable.”

“We are becoming more urban and less informed about wildlife and conservation.”

“Keep an open mind toward other groups that share common goals that I had previous ignored because of the belief that they are anti-hunting/fishing.”

“Just because you care about something does not mean you cannot lose it. The time is now to act!”

“Keep communication going.”

“I was drawn to the re-realization of our need to give attention and priority to involvement with developing passion for nature in our youth.”

# Evaluations

## Evaluations

### Do you have any other comments on the workshop?

“Although it might have been logistically difficult, an opportunity for direct questioning of speakers/panelists would have been good in addition to the screened questions process you needed to follow.”

“Shane of course. But the missing piece was a panel of some or most of the organized groups and elected officials. That can happen in future events.”

“Shane Mahoney was worth whole weekend. I’m going to search for anything he has written and read it. I really appreciated that this was not a canned speech; it was specific for Idaho.”

“Recommend: Maintain link on IDFG website that contains Wildlife Summit materials. Establish K-12 Curriculum Wildlife Legacy Appreciation. Need to reduce the distanced and mutualist syndrome – IDFG

develop K-12 curriculum, best gatekeeper.”

“I thought the mix of speakers was well laid out. And ending with Shane Mahoney was good because he talks directly to people’s hearts.”

“Keep it coming! We have every reason to continue. We need to focus on wildlife conservation and commonalities.”

“Virgil Moore – excellent presentation of the reflections and his observations. His personal experiences. Wendy Lowe was a great facilitator.”

“The Idaho Fish and Game director did our state proud, and Shane Mahoney challenged us to protect and enhance. Toni Hardesty and Jim Posewitz were excellent choices to widen the discussion. The

Sunday panel discussion was excellent.”

“Mahoney was amazing; thanks for bringing him in for this. Really liked the Idaho Café session; just wished we had had a more diverse attendance – some different views but mostly preaching to the choir (not a bad thing just broader would be better).”

“When do you move on to the hard questions: public lands being land locked by private land – access – wolves – depredation to elk.”

“Across the board recognition we need to engage next generation.”

“Really want to see opportunities for productive follow-up involvement by Summit participants, at a deep and detailed level of issue exploration, discussion, resolution.”

## SOURCES OF REVENUE

As of September 30, 2012

### Wildlife Summit Costs

**A**lmost 50 organizations and individuals gave more than \$100,000 in sponsorships and donations to cover the costs of the Summit, and Fish and Game continues to receive funding pledges for these efforts. Fish and Game and the Commission wishes to thank them. Our records show more than \$100,000 of personnel time was spent in support of and planning for this event. These payroll costs are covered by license and other funds already appropriated to Idaho Fish and Game.

In addition to the sponsorships listed below, Fish and Game received in-kind donations of \$6,170 from P2 Solutions and \$15,000 from The Nature Conservancy-Idaho.



### Idaho Department of Fish & Game Wildlife Summit Revenues & Total Expenses As of September 30, 2012

Sponsors:	Amount Pledged
Advantage Archery	\$ 500
American Fisheries Society	\$ 1,000
Agrium	\$ 500
Avista	\$ 1,500
Back Country Hunters & Anglers	\$ 500
Biomark	\$ 500
Brockman's RV Sales Inc	\$ 250
Citizens Against Poaching	\$ 2,500
Clearwater Flycasters	\$ 250
CXT Inc.	\$ 350
Diane and Michael Tauscher	\$ 25
Ducks Unlimited	\$ 750
Fluidigm	\$ 1,000
Golden Eagle Audubon	\$ 250
Idaho Conservation Officers Association	\$ 5,000

# Costs

## WHAT DID WE SPEND?

As of September 30, 2012

Sponsors:	Amount Pledged
Idaho Conservation League	\$ 500
Idaho Council of Trout Unlimited	\$ 500
Idaho Forest Group	\$ 500
Idaho Hunter Association, TV	\$ 500
Idaho Outfitters and Guides	\$ 250
Idaho Power	\$ 500
Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game	\$ 6,000
Idaho Fish & Wildlife Foundation	\$ 50,000
Intermountain Aquatics, Inc	\$ 500
Idaho Western Joint Venture	\$ 500
Les Schwab Tires	\$ 500
Life Technologies	\$ 500
Magic Valley Fly Fishers	\$ 250
Monsanto	\$ 500
Mule Deer Foundation	\$ 1,500
Northwest Marine Tech.	\$ 500
National Wild Turkey Federation	\$ 1,500
Olley Law Office	\$ 100
Pheasants Forever	\$ 1,000
Prairie Falcon Audubon	\$ 350



Sponsors:	Amount Pledged
Pro Guide Direct	\$ 500
Riddle Marine	\$ 250
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	\$ 5,000
Rob Green Auto	\$ 1,500
ROW Adventures	\$ 250
Safari Club International	\$ 5,000
Snake River Valley Bass Club	\$ 100
Southern Idaho RV & Marine	\$ 300
Southwick & Associates	\$ 250
The Nature Conservancy	\$ 1,500
The Wild Sheep Foundation	\$ 500
The Wildlife Society	\$ 1,000
US Bank	\$ 250
US Fish and Wildlife Service	\$ 10,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 107,725</b>
<b>Donations collected:</b>	<b>\$ 660</b>
<b>Total receipts:</b>	<b>\$ 108,385</b>
<b>Summit Expenses (paid as of 9/30/12)</b>	<b>\$ (117,673)</b>
<b>Net Over/(under)</b>	<b>\$ (9,288)</b>

# What's Next

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

### What's Next?

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game are eager to build on the momentum of the Wildlife Summit and work with Idahoans to ensure abundant, diverse wildlife and a rich outdoor heritage for future generations.

Shane Mahoney is also interested, and we are working to enlist his help to be part of the process moving forward.

This report includes brief summaries and some examples of discussions, polling and comments from participants. Some online input, however, was not available in time to include in this report. But it will be incorporated, as applicable, in Fish and Game's analysis of the volume of comments received during the Summit. In addition, technical issues during online polls precluded some responses from satellite locations from being included here. It also needs additional analysis.

Information from online participants and polling results and comments will be posted on the Fish and Game website as they become available.

Even if you weren't able to attend the Summit, we invite you to review the report or watch the Summit presentations on the DVDs. Pass them on to others who might be interested. In the coming weeks and months, we'll provide information on our website and through our other outreach programs to let you know how to be a part of the future for Idaho's wildlife.

Remember, Idaho's wildlife belongs to you and we all share responsibility in preserving, protecting and managing Idaho's wildlife. Our wildlife and outdoor heritage is what makes Idaho a special place.

### yesterday



### today



### tomorrow



“**N**O child left inside!



“**M**entor young people.  
Be more proactive in  
getting kids outdoors.



“**A** culture of concern and regard  
for the natural world.





## Idaho Fish and Game

[HTTP://FISHANDGAME.IDAHO.GOV/](http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/)

# IDAHO WILDLIFE SUMMIT



**Idaho's Wildlife Belongs To You**

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