

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting
February 4, 2010
Boise, Idaho**

Present in the Director's Office: Director Groen, Deputy Director Moore; Deputy Director Unsworth; Dallas Burkhalter, Deputy Attorney General; Sharon Kiefer, Assistant Director - Policy; Lance Hebdon, Inter-Governmental Policy Coordinator; Mary Boyer, Executive Assistant; and Brad Compton, Assistant Chief, Wildlife.

Participating from the Clearwater Regional Office, Dave Cadwallader and Keith Lawrence, Nez Perce Tribe; Panhandle Regional Office, Chip Corsi and Mark Taylor.

A special meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by telephone conference. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wayne Wright with Commissioners McDermott, Trevey, Barowsky, Wheeler and Power participating. Commissioner Budge was excused.

RULES

Status of Fish and Game Rule Dockets in the Committees

Sharon Kiefer, Assistant Director, provided an update on the Fish and Game rule dockets. Ms. Kiefer noted that the Rules Committee was rejecting a subsection of the rule docket that deals with Use of Department Lands. The rule was to change the context of designated roads on Department Lands to be closed unless posted open. Previously the rule was open unless posted closed. The House Committee is proposing to reject the new context of being closed unless posted open. It will take the Senate to also propose to reject that for a rejection to follow.

There was a public hearing on the docket regarding the addition of new southeast Idaho units to the motorized vehicle rule. The vote was not to reject this rule docket in the House.

No recommendations in the Senate Natural Resources & Environment Committee on Fish and Game Rules.

Staff is working with rule ideas that we are hearing from legislators and have discussed with the Commission before in regards to new rules the Commission would consider that would be reviewed by next year's legislature. Previously discussed with Commission was to look at a way to exempt military personnel and military veterans from the live fire exercises of the hunter education course. This would fall under Commission rule making and would be brought to the Commission for discussion at the May meeting once the Department is allowed to make rule making.

FISCAL

Joint Finance Appropriations Committee (JFAC)

Director Groen gave a brief report on the Department JFAC presentation given February 2, 2010. Director Groen noted that the presentation went very well and that the Department has a great supporting cast, especially the efforts of Mike Keckler, Bill Hutchinson and Jim Lau.

LEGISLATION

New Bill Analysis

Sharon Kiefer, Assistant Director, provided a legislative update to the Commission.

House Bill 463 – Proposal to expand the nonresident deer tag combination tag to add wolves as a harvestable species in addition to lions and bears, and expand the same provisions to nonresident elk tags (Appendix 42, Exhibit 14).

The Commission directed staff to draft a proposal and find a legislator sponsor for this bill. The bill is being sponsored by Representative Judy Boyle.

Staff is working with legislators on several concepts that have not yet emerged as bills. Some of those concepts are public records law and publishing successful hunter names, conservation permit for non licensed use of Department lands, also technical advice in regards to a concept to allow outfitters to assist clients with harvesting game.

Status of Previously Discussed Bills

Ms. Kiefer stated that at this time no hearings have been scheduled yet in either the House or Senate natural resource committees. We anticipate hearings next week for the following bills and will testify in regards to the Commission policy position on these bills.

HB 415 -- Amends existing law relating to fish and game to revise permit provisions relating to steelhead trout and anadromous salmon.

HB 416 – Clarify waste penalty, clarify waste definitions, expand species exempted from waste.

HB 417 – Establish a 3-day nonresident small game license.

The Department testified on Senate Concurrent Resolution 113 -- Commend Idaho Children and Nature Network, "Be Outside Day" February 1st.

On the calendar today is the confirmation vote for Commissioner McDermott in the Senate at 11:30.

MISCELLANEOUS

2010 Commission Calendar

Chairman Wright noted that there was a conflict with the previously set dates November 3-4-5 for the November meeting. Commission consensus is to change the dates for the November meeting 17-18-19th.

Helicopter Landing to Collar Wolves

Director Groen noted the Deputy Director Moore is working on this and that we are receiving some interesting news releases from some environmental groups and some of the information is not factual. Director Groen has concerns that if the Department is not allowed to manage effectively it takes our state management opportunities away. The Department may present a recommendation to Commission at a later date regarding wilderness proposals.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 a.m.

10-11 Commissioner Trevey moved and Commissioner McDermott seconded a motion TO ADJOURN. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Wayne Wright
Chairman

Cal Groen
Secretary