

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission  
Special Meeting – March 17-18, 2010  
Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
Trophy Room  
600 South Walnut  
Boise, Idaho**

**March 17**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Field Trip to the Nampa Research Office**

The Commission traveled to the Nampa Research office for presentations by staff.

**RULES**

**Public Meeting**

Chairman Wayne Wright called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He introduced Commissioners Tony McDermott, Fred Trevey, Robert Barowsky, Randall Budge, Cameron Wheeler, Gary Power and Commission Secretary Cal Groen. Staff introductions followed.

Chairman Wright noted that the Commission takes the public comment seriously and the Commission will review the comments at the general meeting on March 18. Commissioners and staff are available after the meeting to answer questions.

Chairman Wright introduced Representatives Bert Stevenson and Marcus Gibbs; Donna Jones, State Controller.

Representative Stevenson reported that all of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game sponsored bills have passed the Legislature. Representative Stevenson stated that it is a pleasure to work with Sharon Kiefer, Assistant Director; and Lance Hebdon, Inter-Governmental Policy Coordinator, during the Legislative session and that they both represent Idaho Department of Fish and Game well. Chairman Stevenson reported on several bills that are before the legislature. The Legislative Ad Hoc Committee will not continue due to funding issues but appreciates the privilege to work with the Department and discuss issues that are important to Fish and Game.

The following individuals testified at the public meeting: Michael Jones, Brent Martell, Allison Briggs, Travis Bullock, Sean Carriere, Tom Demorest, Joseph Peterson, Louise Stark, Sara Mecham, Tammy Overacker, John Robison, Dmitri Vidergar, Blake Fischer, Gary Haight, Joe Heaps, Bob Minter, Mike Moore, Butch Sour, Grant Simonds, Chris Korell, Larry Thorngren, Herb Meyer, Charis Alzola, Nate Helm, Diane M. Jones, Terry Henrickson, Curtis Wiker,

Carolyn Koff, Tom Haver, Michael Vallez, Jesse Timberlake, Ann Hausrath, Dan Kinikini, Chad Doell, Debbis Wiker, Myla Kinikini, Ric Mellon, Tom Foerstel, Eileen DeShazo, Larry Fischer, Pat Corbett, Yvonne Wright, Allison Steen, John Rollins, Kim Jones, Michael Branson, Dr. Karen Balch, DVM, Bob DiGrazie, Eric Snow and Tony Lowrey.

Topics commented on were pronghorn archery unlimited control, aggressive wolf management tools, soft balanced approach to wolf management, Access Yes, freezing outfitter allocation, more public education needed on wolves, Hunt 41, lottery auction tags for bighorn sheep and sabots for muzzleloaders.

The following individuals submitted written comment but did not testify: Kathy Andregg, Sandra Miller, Gene E. Steerr, Rod Smith, Jennifer Robbins Smith, Kimberly Jones, Michael Scott, David Miller, Amie Miller, Rowdy Davis, Bob Swandby, John Cristobal and Charles Allen.

Jessie Timberlake, representing Defenders of Wildlife, stated that Fish and Game is not providing accurate information on wolves and the elk herds. The press releases state that the wolves are having a devastating effect on the elk herds in the Lolo zone; but no reports on the other 9 zones that have healthy elk herds.

Director Groen accepted Defenders challenge for the Department to provide complete information. We try our best, and will continue to provide the best information we can! The Defenders of Wildlife also have an obligation to provide correct information. I will throw the challenge back to you for providing correct information as well.

## **March 18**

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **Opening Comments**

Chairman Wright thanked the Nampa Research Fisheries staff for the great time and presentations on Wednesday. He noted that there were 50 people who requested to speak at the public meeting.

#### **Agenda Changes**

Chairman Wright reported that the July 7-9, 2010 Commission meeting will be held in Kellogg and the November 17-19 meeting will be held in Jerome.

Since the mailout (but reposted more than 48 hours before the meeting) an additional item was added to address an increase for the spring season steelhead limit in the Salmon River. This item will be presented as agenda item number 20.

## **Review of Public Comment**

Director Groen reported that 64 cards were received at the public meeting with 49 testifying.

- 12 – Antelope Archery unlimited controlled hunt
- 14 – More aggressive wolf management tools
- 12 – Soft balanced natural approach for wolves
- 10 – People who did not testify but wanted no wolf seasons
- 10 – Freezing outfitters allocation
- 3 –testimonies on more wolf education needed

Director Groen stated that the department works hard on getting information out to the public. There has been a lot of distortion and misinformation. The Communication's Bureau is working hard with the Regions to get this information out.

1 – Bighorn Sheep Lottery will be covered under agenda item number 8

1 – Changes in muzzleloaders/sabots staff will work on and bring a recommendation to the Commission.

Working with landowners and showing appreciation to landowners important for access

Good testimony on Access Yes a standard approach from Pioneers Alliance group

Hunt 41 near Mountain Home and is new controlled hunt (Appendix 43, Exhibit 28)

## **Director's Report**

Topics in the Director's Report to the Commission included:

Reported that agenda item number 19 Director's Annual Report to the Commission replaces the Department stockholders report; Administration reports that we are down this fiscal year by 1%, but have not had to draw on our stabilization account; 38,000 mailers were sent to nonresidents and we are receiving interesting feedback and positive responses; Enforcement is home to a premier, cutting-edge wildlife forensic program that offers a full-service biological testing program; 312,000 steelhead crossed Lower Granite Dam on their way to Idaho in the last half of 2009; 57,572 steelhead harvested during the fall of 2009; Idaho's first ever spring snow goose season started on February 20 and ended March 10, limited hunter success; however, hunters are excited about the opportunity; Wildlife is scoping upland game seasons for the July meeting; and Conservation Agreement signed to protect sage-grouse in West central Idaho.

## **Commission Reports**

Each Commissioner provided their regional report in written format see (Appendix 43, Exhibit 29).

Commissioner Budge commented on the allocations to nonresident hunters recognizing that our primary responsibility is to provide hunting opportunity to our residents. But we have a department that is financially reliant on nonresident hunters. Conflicts have risen and will likely get worse in some areas. The nonresident allocation in the Diamond Creek archery area where the department ended up with 44 % going to nonresidents was very unsatisfactory a year ago and

not well received. Both regional staff and Commissioner Budge made some commitments last year that they would change this for this year. We did not change it and did not do it for financial reasons and were very candid in explaining this to sportsmen. He feels the honesty was very significant and appreciated and well received. The Department stayed with the 44% allocation and told sportsmen that the reason would be that it would cost the Department a half a million dollars.

Director Groen reported that we do have an issue in the Diamond Creek area. The region is struggling with the allocation model which has been used across the state on ten plus zones. It is not only a financial issue but more of a fairness issue among all hunters. Is the allocation tool a proper tool at this time? Director will have a discussion with staff.

Commissioner Wheeler stated that season settings went well but participation was low in the Upper Snake. Commissioner Wheeler requests that a grizzly bear report and discussion be added to the May agenda.

Commissioner McDermott reported that he had a call from a hunter reporting that wolves have taken 7 moose in the Lighting Creek drainage area which is of concern to him. Thanks to regional staff for their participation at the State of the Lake Meeting.

Commissioner Trevey reported that they have had a series of meetings with sportsmen talking about big game and fishing regulations that are in process now. Reports difficulty in getting to the areas where the wolves are due to the snow and the travel management on forest service ground in those areas typically closes the roads down at the highway. The region worked with the Forest Service on a permitted program where a sportsman can go to the forest service office and get a free permit allowing some of the access roads to open from the main road up into the Lochsa area. It has been very well received not only for wolf hunting but for bear and lion hunting also.

Commissioner Barowsky reports a new fishing pond was opened up in Kuna. The city of Boise purchased 700 acres the Hammer Flats property that was due for development. Fish and Game will manage the wildlife aspect of this property; it is reported that 2,000 deer winter in this area.

Commissioner Power reports that elk surveys were flown in the Middle Fork zone. The region does a good job with fish management and involvement for the youth through several different programs. Big Game public meetings went well and not much controversy.

Commissioner Wright reports that deer survival has been great with few mortalities. Big Game open houses were poorly attended in the region. The region will be looking for other options for collecting public input next year.

### **Consent Calendar**

Items included in the consent calendar:

- A. Financial Report ending January 31, 2010

**10-28 Commissioner Budge moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a motion TO ACCEPT THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS PRESENTED. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.**

## **REPORTS**

### **Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation Report**

Gayle Valentine, Executive Director, presented the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation (IFWF) report.

The Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Foundation) 2010 online trip auction began February 19 and ended February 28. Over 40 trips were auctioned with a lot of bidding activity.

The Foundation's project funding applications were due March 12, 2010. As of mid-February we have received five applications with approximately seven more applications expected by the deadline. The IFWF Board will vote on proposals at their April 2010 board meeting.

The IFWF Board met by teleconference call on February 5, 2010. The Board approved renewal of our Foundation insurance policy and discussions were held concerning Springfield Hatchery.

The next IFWF Board meeting will be held in Lewiston on April 23, 24 and 25, 2010. Agenda includes election of officers and board member term renewals, project funding applications, committee updates and an IDFG Clearwater regional report.

An Idaho Department of Fish and Game fisheries project to help enhance/restore aquatic functions on two tributaries of the Upper Blackfoot River (Lanes and Diamond Creeks) has been approved by the US Army Corps of Engineers per the Upper Blackfoot River Basin Trust Fund Agreement established with the Foundation, IDFG, Astaris and USACE in May 2001. A \$6,000 check was mailed to the Bear Lake Grazing Company the end of January 2010. Project lead is Dave Teuscher, IDFG Fish Biologist in the southeast regional office.

The announcement for the Foundation Development Coordinator job with Fish and Game was released by Division of Human Resources on February 17, 2010. The application closed on March 2, 2010.

### **Auction Tag Guidelines**

Jeff Gould, Chief, Wildlife, presented Auction Tag Guidelines to the Commission (Appendix 43, Exhibit 30). Following the July 2009 Commission meeting, Bureau of Wildlife staff was directed, with input from Administrative staff, to develop guidelines for a wildlife auction and lottery tag bid process. In response, agency staff has developed a fair and open qualification and selection process that will help in selecting which conservation groups receive special wildlife tags to sell through lottery or auction. The need for such a process came to the forefront in 2009 when the

Commission considered competing proposals from 2 groups interested in special bighorn sheep tags and the Director considered proposals from 6 groups interested in special wolf tags.

The Commission is authorized under IC 36-408 to release 2 special bighorn sheep tags and up to 10 special wolf tags each year for auction or lottery. Selection of tag recipients is assigned to the Commission for bighorn sheep tags and to the Director for wolf tags. This qualification and selection process ensures that these special tags are awarded in a credible and independent fashion. The qualification process also helps conservation groups submit competitive bids in a timely manner.

Pre-certification allows organizations to establish eligibility and qualifications, and allows the Department to address incomplete or unclear applications well ahead of award deadlines. Providing all interested parties sufficient information up front assures that coveted special tags are fairly and reasonably allocated. This has become increasingly important as more tags are issued and additional groups are interested in these opportunities.

Staff will initiate the RFP process for bighorn sheep special tags which will be released during the July Commission meeting.

## **LEGISLATION**

### **Legislative Update**

Sharon Kiefer, Assistant Director, provided a brief overview of bills see status table (Appendix 43, Exhibit 31). Ms. Kiefer reported that all of the Department sponsored bill have passed both houses and are awaiting Governor signature. March 25<sup>th</sup> will be the last legislative conference call.

The Commission thanks Ms. Kiefer and staff for all of their hard work and preparation in this legislative session.

## **REPORT**

### **Wolf Season Preliminary Report**

Jon Rachael, State wildlife Manger, presented a wolf update (Appendix 43, Exhibit 32). Mr. Rachael reported that a statewide harvest limit was set at 220 wolves. Harvest limits and season dates were also set for each individual wolf management zone. Hunters must call in harvest within 24 hours and check pelt and skull within 5 days. The season remains open until March 31 or until harvest limits are reached.

2009-2010 Season Preliminary Harvest Statistics:

- 178 Wolves taken 9-1-2009 – 3-16-2010

- 7 of 12 zones closed after harvest limits were reached
- Harvested wolves ranged in size from 54- 127 lbs.
- Average weight of adult males (>1yr) = 100 lbs. (range 66- 127-lbs.)
- Average weight of adult females (>1yr) = 79 lbs. (Range 72-85 lbs.)
- 58% of harvested wolves were male
- 15% of harvested wolves were juveniles (<1yr)
- 86% of harvested wolves were taken by resident hunters
- 12 of 170 wolves (7%) checked in by hunters were wearing radio collars

## **RULES**

### **Season Setting: Big Game Species**

Jon Rachael, State Wildlife Manger, presented the deer, elk, pronghorn, black bear, and mountain lion season Department recommendations for 2010/2011 (Appendix 43, Exhibit 33). Mr. Rachael provided a draft copy of the Idaho Big Game Seasons and Rules 2010 (Appendix 43, Exhibit 34).

A summary of recommended changes include:

#### **DEER**

- Consider moving traditional Oct. 10 hunt opening dates to Saturday, Oct. 9 for the 2010 season.
- Provide special opportunity for Sr. and disabled hunters and increase youth opportunity.
- Adjust controlled hunt permit levels in response to population changes and desired hunt quality, and to address chronic depredation concerns.

#### **ELK**

- Consider moving traditional Oct. 10 hunt opening dates to Saturday, Oct. 9 for the 2010 season.
- Allow hunters age 12 -17 who purchase a general season elk zone tag to participate in both A and B tag seasons.
- Reduce antlerless harvest in north Idaho to help rebuild populations.
- Further reduce caps on Sawtooth Zone A & B tags, reduce existing caps on Lolo B tags, implement cap on Lolo Zone and Smoky Mountain Zone A tags, evaluate options to cap on Diamond Creek 'A' tags implemented in 2009, implement cap on Salmon Zone B-tags.
- Adjust controlled hunt permit levels in response to population changes, and to address chronic depredation concerns.

### **PRONGHORN**

- Adjust unlimited controlled archery hunts for pronghorn that were implemented in 2009 to reduce hunter congestion concerns, achieve management objectives, and provide an equitable distribution of participation and harvest among user groups.

### **BLACK BEAR**

- No changes proposed.

### **MOUNTAIN LION**

- Consider re-implementing female quota in Southeast region units to reduce change of overharvest.

Commissioner Barowsky commented that Region has met with the Boise Valley archery groups on a yearly basis for the last 3 – 4 years. Biologically you can see the horn sizes dropping a little bit so there is a reason for biological, but the social issue is the main concern. There have been fights with individuals building plywood blinds and leaving them up for an extended period of time. Commissioner Barowsky is in full support of the Department recommendation on the 200 draw hunts. This will not restrict hunters from entering any other draw for other big game. The Southwest Region has been facilitating that social aspect of this hunt for at least 3 years.

Chairman Wright states that he would like for the Department recommendations to be passed in total rather than going through region by region.

Commissioner Power suggests that Hunt 2068 – 180 permits, Hunt 2081-75 permits, Hunt 2082-75 permits, Hunt 2083-100 permits and Hunt 2084- 220 permits.

Chairman Wright stated that he would accept a motion to accept the Department recommendations as presented with an amendment to address Commissioner Power's concerns. The amendment will be voted on first followed by the main motion on Department recommendations.

Commissioner Barowsky has concerns on the department recommendation for senior hunts in the Southwest Region. He feels this item needs to be debated and the region would like some clarification and the policy on how the Commission wishes to go on these specialized hunts such as the senior hunt across the state. Does the Commission want to get into these specialty hunts or give a clear concise policy at this time on what the Commission's decision will be.

Jon Rachael stated that the Ada County Fish and Game League has presented several proposals over the last 3 years to offer additional controlled hunt opportunities for seniors only. There are concerns expressed by other factions that the department should not be splintering and fragmenting our hunter groups into increasingly smaller bodies of special interest. The Department would like guidance from the Commission on this subject.

Chairman Wright stated that the Department is making concessions to seniors allowing them to purchase leftover youth hunting tags.

Commissioner Budge states that if there is a concern over this proposal that the Commission should address it at this time. He suggests that Commissioner Barowsky make a motion to amend this proposal or eliminate all together.

Jon Rachael suggests that the Commission take the 50 permits in the existing hunt and return them back to the controlled hunt pool and increase Hunt 1050 to 350 tags. Recommendation for the current proposal is to drop it.

Commission discussion followed.

**10-29 Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Budge seconded a motion ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE 2010 BIG GAME SEASONS, IT IS RECOMMENDED THE DELETION OF THE SENIOR HUNT IN UNIT 31 THAT BEING 50 TAGS AND GOES BACK INTO THE GENERAL POOL INCREASING THAT NUMBER TO 350 TAGS AND THE RECOMMENDATION OF A SENIOR HUNT IN UNITS 40 AND 41 BE COMPLETELY ELIMINATED FROM THIS YEARS HUNT FOR FURTHER REVIEW ON SPECIAL HUNTS FOR INDIVIDUALS BE ADDRESSED LATER THROUGH THE COMMISSION AGENDA AND DIRECTS STAFF TO DO THIS. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.**

**10-30 Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner McDermott seconded a motion TO ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IDAHO BIG GAME SEASONS FOR 2010 AS PRESENTED. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.**

**10- 31 Commissioner Power moved and Commissioner Wheeler seconded a motion TO AMEND THE MAIN MOTION AS OUTLINED: HUNT 2068 – 180 PERMITS, HUNT 2081-75 PERMITS, HUNT 2082-75 PERMITS, HUNT 2083-100 PERMITS AND HUNT 2084- 220 PERMITS. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.**

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Reservists Award

Mary Dudley, Volunteer Coordinator, and Director Groen presented the Idaho Wildlife Reservist Award 2010 to Grant Jemmett. Mr. Jemmett retired at age 69 from a life of farming and ranching, Grant Jemmett began volunteering with the IDFG – that was twenty years ago! Grant has served as an exemplary Idaho Wildlife Reservist, contributing over 3,200 hours and driving more than 21,100 miles in his personal vehicles on projects benefitting Idaho's wildlife.

## REPORT

### Surrogator Project Information

Sal Palazzolo provided a brief overview on the 2010 Surrogator Evaluation Project (Appendix 43, exhibit 35). Mr. Palazzolo's presentation outlined the concepts of a 2010 Pheasant Surrogator® Evaluation Program. Sportsmen groups, landowners, conservation organizations and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game will collaborate to implement and evaluate the feasibility and success of raising pheasant chicks in Surrogators® as a tool to improve hunting opportunities.

Mr. Palazzolo stated that the Evaluation is designed to enable sportsmen groups and landowners that desire to utilize Surrogators®, to employ biological and technical expertise of the Department and to increase dialogue between sportsmen, landowners, and the Department. The hope would also be to encourage and motivate landowners to improve habitat and provide sportsmen with access and hunting opportunity.

## LANDS

### LQ Drain Land Acquisition and Camas Creek Donation

Gregg Servheen, Wildlife Program Coordinator, presented the LQ Drain Addition and the Camas Creek Donation proposals to the Commission.

The LQ Drain acquisition would add 13 acres of private agricultural land to the existing 17.1-acre LQ Drain Wildlife Habitat Area in the Magic Valley region. IDFG is cooperating with DEQ, Twin Falls Canal Company, Pheasants Forever, and Southern Idaho Land Trust on the acquisition. IDFG will hold title, the same as the initial LQ drain purchase. The LQ drain is a cooperative effort to provide additional wildlife habitat and also improve water quality on irrigation water before re-entering the Snake River. This property was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session in January 2010.

This 6-acre property borders Camas Creek in the Magic Valley region. It is currently being used by the public for ingress and egress for non-motorized craft on Camas Creek for the purpose of fishing, observing wildlife, hunting, and kayaking. The property is being donated by a long-time resident of Camas Prairie, Hugh Koonce. This property was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session in January 2010. FILT is not applicable because of the less than 10-acre size. O&M costs are estimated at \$500 annually.

**10-32 Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Trevey seconded a motion TO PROCEED WITH THE LQ DARIN ADDITION AND THE CAMAS CREEK DONATION AS PRESENTED BY STAFF. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.**

## FISCAL

### Idaho Department of Fish and Game's Annual Report to the Commission

Director Groen distributed copies of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game's Annual Report to the Commission (Appendix 43, Exhibit 36). Director Groen noted that this report replaces the Department's Stockholders report. The report is an operations and finance report showing expenditures of the Department, commonly asked questions to the Commission and a list of Department contacts. Mike Keckler, Chief, Communications, stated that the report would be posted on the Department website. Commissioner Wheeler commends the Department for their work and efforts on the report.

The meeting recessed at 11:45 pm and reconvened at 1:00 pm.

## REPORT

### Status Report Diversion Issue

Chairman Wright stated a good faith basis for adding a Status Report to the agenda on the Diversion Issue by Keith Reynolds, DFM Analyst, given the meeting's being well ahead of schedule, Mr. Reynolds' availability, and the Commission's interest in this issue.

**10-33 Commissioner McDermott moved and Commissioner Wheeler seconded a motion TO AMEND THE AGENDA AND ADD AN ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.**

Mr. Reynolds provided a brief status report to the Commission. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game was notified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that last year's change related to the charging of health care benefits for employees who do not participate in the plan (HB294) is considered to be a diversion of funds and unless corrected the Department will become ineligible to participate in Pittman/Roberston and Dingell/Johnson allocations in the future. The Department is working with LSO and DFM on a solution to correct.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Executive Session

**10-34 Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Power seconded a motion THAT THE COMMISSION GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS (C) AND (F) OF IDAHO CODE SECTION 67-2345 TO DISCUSS PROPERTY ACQUISITION AND PENDING LITIGATION. Roll Call Vote: McDermott:**

**aye; Trevey aye; Barowsky: aye; Budge: aye; Wheeler: aye; Power: aye; Wright aye. Vote tally: 7 ayes.**

The executive session ended at 2:00 p.m. with no official action taken.

## **REPORT**

### **Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Overview**

Sharon Kiefer, Assistant Director, provided a fish and wildlife mitigation overview (Appendix 43, Exhibit 37). Idaho is facing development of landscape-scale infrastructure particularly for energy generation and transmission. This is cumulative to continuing development for other land uses. Staff anticipates significant involvement forthcoming over the next two years pursuant to these large projects, needing Department evaluation and mitigation recommendations to the State and permitting agencies. A review of the Department's approach to mitigation is timely to assess whether current policy and principles sufficiently support the Department's mission described in Idaho Code 36-103 and fulfills expectations described in our strategic plan, *The Compass*, and other species management plans.

## **RULES**

### **Season Setting: Spring Season Chinook Salmon Fisheries**

Ed Schriever, Chief, Fisheries, provided an update and the proposal (Appendix 43, Exhibit 38) to the Commission for the spring season Chinook salmon fisheries.

Chief Schriever stated that the proposed 2010 spring Chinook salmon season is designed to address several objectives:

- Manage fisheries so incidental impacts to wild/natural fish are kept within permitted levels
- The primary objective (of anadromous hatcheries) is to provide harvest opportunity
- Manage fisheries to provide a diversity of fishing opportunity
- Implement a fishery framework that allows adaptive management in response to in-season fishery monitoring and run size updates

Staff recommendation is to approve the proposed 2010 fishing seasons for Chinook salmon in the Snake River, Lower Salmon River, Little Salmon River, Mainstem Clearwater River, North Fork Clearwater River, South Fork Clearwater River and Lochsa River.

**10-35 Commissioner Trevey moved and Commissioner Power seconded a motion TO ACCEPT THE STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2010 SPRING SEASON**

**CHINOOK SALMON FISHERIES AS PRESENTED BY STAFF. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.**

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Hunter Education Instructor's Award**

Dan Papp, Wildlife Educator, and Chairman Wayne Wright presented the Commissioner's Award – "Continuing the Heritage" to the following Southwest Region Volunteer Hunter Education instructors (Appendix 43, Exhibit39).

Mark Phinney – Boise

Jay Stark – Boise

Rocky Widner – Oreana

Randy Irish – Nampa (not present)

Southwest Region volunteer Hunter Education Instructors Randy Irish, Mark Pinney, Jay Stark and Rocky Widner have conducted 248 classes in the last 9 years (28 classes per year/588 hours per year). They have trained and certified a total of 5,525 students.

Each instructor has donated 3 ½, 40 hour weeks on average, each year for the last 9 years. Their combined in-kind PR Federal Aid Match to the State of Idaho totals \$144,088.

### **Hunter Education 2009 State Instructor of the Year Presentation**

Chairman Wright and Clayton Nielson, Hunter Ed Technician, presented Dell Wuebbenhorst from the Magic Valley Region the 2009 State Instructor of the Year Award. Mr. Wuebbenhorst has been a Hunter Education Instructor for 19 years in the Magic Valley Region and has certified over 600 students and mentored many kids on hunts.

## **RULES**

### **Increase Spring Season Steelhead Limit in the Salmon River**

Ed Schriever, Chief, Fisheries, presented the proposal to increase the spring season steelhead limit in the Salmon River. The return of hatchery origin steelhead to the Snake River Basin set a new record in the fall of 2009. Many of those hatchery steelhead are returning to the Pahsimeroi and Sawtooth hatcheries in the upper Salmon River basin. Staff estimate that about 32,000 Sawtooth Hatchery and 35,000 Pahsimeroi Hatchery have already crossed Lower Granite Dam. Some of those fish have already been harvested in fall and spring season fisheries but staff estimate that 12,000 and 20,000 hatchery steelhead may return to the Sawtooth and Pahsimeroi hatchery weirs, respectively. Those numbers are far in excess of brood stock needs and it is desirable to harvest as many hatchery fish as possible.

Staff recommendation is to increase the spring season steelhead limit in the Salmon River drainage to 80 steelhead. This change does not affect spring steelhead season limits in the Clearwater or Snake Rivers.

**10-36 Commissioner Power moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a motion TO ACCEPT THE STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO INCREASE THE SPRING SEASON STEELHEAD LIMIT IN THE SALMON RIVER DRAINAGE TO 80 STEELHEAD. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.**

Adjournment

---

Gary Power  
Acting Chairman

---

Cal Groen  
Secretary