

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission  
Quarterly Meeting May 19-20, 2010  
Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
Clearwater Regional Office  
3316 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lewiston, Idaho**

**May 19**

Commissioners toured the Fish Handling Facilities at Lower Granite Dam. Commissioners Fred Trevey, Tony McDermott, Cameron Wheeler and Gary Power attended. Commissioners Wayne Wright, Robert Barowsky and Randy Budge were excused.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Public Meeting**

Acting Chairman (Chairman) Gary Power called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. He introduced Commissioners Tony McDermott, Fred Trevey, Robert Barowsky, Cameron Wheeler and Commission Secretary Cal Groen. Chairman Power reported that Commissioner Wayne Wright is recovering from surgery and Commissioner Randy Budge was excused. Staff introductions followed.

Chairman Power welcomed and introduced Representative Liz Chavez, Lewiston.

Chairman Power stated that the Commission takes the public comment seriously and the Commission will review the comments at the general meeting on May 20. Commissioners and staff are available after the meeting to answer questions.

Heather Stout, is concerned about wolves and the use of outfitters to remove wolves in the Lolo Zone, she would like for the Department to use science not politics. Ms. Stout referenced the WILDLIFE PROPERTY OF STATE – PRESERVATION:

(a) Wildlife Policy. All wildlife, including all wild animals, wild birds, and fish, within the state of Idaho, is hereby declared to be the property of the state of Idaho. It shall be preserved, protected, perpetuated, and managed. It shall be only captured or taken at such times or places, under such conditions, or by such means, or in such manner, as will preserve, protect, and perpetuate such wildlife, and provide for the citizens of this state and, as by law permitted to others, continued supplies of such wildlife for hunting, fishing and trapping.

James Mahan, spoke regarding upland game birds. He supports a mentor for juniors, an October 1<sup>st</sup> opener for chukar and quail; if you have a motor on your boat you should not be allowed to shoot upland birds from your boat.

Scott Lynas, representing Tri County Tree Hound Association stated that he had heard about the Department proposal to prohibit use of radio telemetry or other electronic tracking devices as an

aid to take big game animals. Mr. Lynas was concerned that the Hound Club would lose their tracking rights on their dogs for bears and cougars. Staff visited with Mr. Lynas and clarified the proposal stating this proposal would not restrict the ability of sportsmen to use telemetry equipment on their hounds or other sporting dogs.

Nick Fiore stated he has concerns of increased number of hunters and increase in hunter harvest when issues of elk population is present. Removal of predators may not be the answer for the Selway.

Harvey Neese, Clarkston, Washington spoke regarding Fish and Game management of turkeys declining elk population and wolves.

R. Ashley Lyman, supports wolf control removal. Mr. Lyman would like to see an annual census of elk population.

Clarence Binninger, spoke regarding habitat development and supports wolf control.

Brent Haverstick commented on take methods for Northern Rockies grey wolves in the 2010-2011 hunting season and taking of wolves by outfitters in the Lolo Zone for summer 2010. Mr. Haverstick has concerns with steel traps, electronic calls, and baiting wolves. If there is going to be a wolf hunt in the 2010-2010 Mr. Haverstick suggests that the Department refrain from these methods. The 2009-2010 season had an overall success rate of 85% with things being the way they were.

Nate Helm, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife (SFW) stated that SFW supports the Department scoping concepts for nonbiological rules. The surrogate program intent is to find a successful way to increase upland game bird populations. Mr. Helm reported that SFW gave a presentation to the Senate Transportation committee on wildlife vehicle collisions and requests that the Commission and Department continue to address this issue. SFW is concerned about the future of the Idaho Watershed Initiative and is still committed to the large scale rangeland improvement for all of Idaho.

Susan Westervelt, Dreary, Idaho submitted written comments regarding wolf killing.

Mike Rue submitted written comment regarding youth turkey hunts. He would like no hunting between the youth and the adult hunt, giving birds a chance to settle down. Also consider areas for senior/handicap fishing on the South Fork Salmon Fishery. The lower section provides handicap accessible areas.

**May 20**

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Opening Comments**

Chairman Power called the meeting to order with Commissioners Tony McDermott, Fred Trevey, Robert Barowsky, Randy Budge and Cameron Wheeler present. Chairman Wayne Wright is recovering from surgery. There are no agenda changes.

### **Review of Public Comment**

The Commission addressed comments received at the public meeting. Mitch Silvers, Senator Crapo's office gave a brief report on the habitat work being done in the Clearwater Region. Commissioner Trevey will provide a copy of the Director's Annual Report to the Commission to Mr. Neese.

### **Director's Report**

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

- The Department operating cash balance remains strong
- Resident fishing licenses are up 11%
- The Stabilization Fund established by the Commission remains intact at \$3 million
- The Department is holding down spending and continues to look for efficiencies
- 500 copies of the Director's Report to the Commission were printed and being distributed to the Governor's office, lawmakers, and constituent groups
- Thanks to the Communications Bureau
- FY Direction 2011 will be out soon
- Super Hunt Tag Sales are increasing
- Hatchery managers completed releases of smolts in March, April and May
- 11,938,000 Spring/summer/fall Chinook salmon, 6,891,000 summer steelhead, and 178,000 sockeye salmon
- Landowner Appreciation Tags
- Fish and Game Advisory Committee and Idaho Sportsmen Caucus Advisory Council discussed issues and potential solutions for the Landowner Appreciation Tags

### **Commission Reports**

Each Commissioner provided their regional report in written format (Appendix 43, Exhibit 41).

Commissioner Budge reported that winter was very mild and the spring has been very wet. The fawn survival rate was at 59%. The pilot surrogate program is getting started up. There is a lot of enthusiasm among sportsmen groups. The Edson Fichter Urban Fishing Pond is proceeding on schedule. The Department successfully negotiated approval from the City of Blackfoot to begin stocking Jensen Pond, just off of I-15 in Blackfoot.

Commissioner Wheeler reported that the deer survival is just under 80%. The South Fork Angler Incentive Program is creating lots of serious fishing and excitement. No rewards have been paid so far. The regional office has been remodeled to accommodate the Hunter Education program. Things are going well in the region, there is strong support for the Department and a great staff who works hard and relates well with the public. It is a great pleasure to work with the staff.

Commissioner Fred Trevey thanked the region and headquarters staff for their participation and planning for the field trip to the Fish Handling Facilities at Lower Granite Dam, it was very educational for all. There is excitement for the Deyo Pond family fishing waters and is getting close to completion. From May 4-6 the department captured 25 sturgeon and x-rays revealed that 11 (44%) sturgeon had one or more hooks in them. This technology provides good research information. Reports a low water year.

Commissioner Bob Barowsky reported that the fawn survival is looking good with April survival at 76%. Doe survival is 94%. Enforcement officers have been busy with several youth fishing activities. Commissioner Barowsky met with the Payette Recreation Department concerning a college student who would like to start a natural resource group of youth ages 10-12 years. The Recreation Department would fund 100%. The only expense to IDFG would be facilitating instructors or assisting different classes to the group.

Commissioner Tony McDermott reported that things are going well in the Panhandle Region and appreciates the working relationship with the Regional staff and the general public.

Commissioner McDermott attended a meeting in Bonners Ferry hosted by Bonneville Power Administration and Army Corps of Engineers. The topic of the meeting was Libby Dam and the water flow effect on white sturgeon in the Kootenai River. Passed the 100,000 milestone for lake trout removed from Lake Pend Oreille as part of the recovery program, as of the April summary, over the 4 years anglers had removed 3 times more lake trout than netters; but the vast majority of fish being removed now are juvenile lake trout being taken in nets. Along with the increased kokanee survival, anglers are reporting larger rainbow trout; a 30 pound rainbow was caught in the Clark Fork River just up from the lake. Reports a mild winter which is a benefit for the wildlife. The moose population in the Clark Fork area is suffering due to wolf depredation. The Fur sale was held in Coeur d'Alene this year, and grossed over \$11,000 despite poor weather conditions.

Commissioner Gary Power reported the March Salmon Zone aerial elk surveys at 5,626 cows vs. 4600-7000 objective; meeting objective, however, despite elimination of most cow harvest following 2008 survey, cow number continued to decline by 9%, but less than predicted by modeling. Ongoing control actions in Pahsimeroi, Leadore area, Baldy Mountain and East Fork. In 2010 17 cattle and 5 sheep depredated, 10 wolves taken by Wildlife Service. Some outfitters have expressed that they enjoyed having a wolf hunt in the Middle Fork. Weirs have been installed in the North Fork of the Salmon River and had a good return of steelhead. Appreciates the work and investigation that the enforcement officers do in the Region.

### **Consent Calendar**

Items included in the consent calendar:

- a. Minutes, March 17-18 and March 25, 2010
- b. Financial Report
- c. Adjustments to 2010 Outfitter Allocated General Hunt Elk Tags
- d. Western Governors Association Decision Support System Pilot Project

**10- 43 Commissioner Budge moved and Commissioner Wheeler seconded a motion TO ACCEPT THE ITEMS IN THE CONSENT CALENDAR. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.**

## **REPORT**

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

Sharon Kiefer, Assistant Director-Policy, presented the Idaho Fish and Wildlife (IFWF) report.

Ann Dehner has been hired as the new Fish and Game Foundation Development Coordinator to take over for Gayle Valentine who is retiring. There were about 70 applicants for this job and 8 highly qualified candidates were interviewed. A primary duty will be to serve as the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation (IFWF) Executive Director. Ann is currently serving in a temporary capacity and will become a permanent employee upon Gayle's retirement in late June. Director Groen introduced Ann to the IFWF Board at their April 23-25 meeting in Lewiston.

The IFWF Board approved sale of Springfield hatchery to the Commission for the appraised purchase price of \$1.96 million at their April meeting. Final technical edits to a purchase and sale agreement for signature by both parties are in progress and BPA review of the purchase and sale agreement is also in progress.

At their April meeting, the IFWF Board elected new officers and approved grant funding for 6 projects totaling \$20,000. Funded IDFG Projects include the Waterlife Discovery Center in the Panhandle Region and the Boundary Creek launch site interpretive sign project in the Salmon Region.

## **LEGISLATION**

### **Legislative Update**

Sharon Kiefer, Assistant Director, reviewed actions required by the Commission and the Department to implement new laws enacted by the 2010 Legislature as signed by the Governor (Appendix 43, Exhibit 42).

### **Rule Proposal to Implement 2010 Statutes**

Sharon Kiefer, Assistant Director, presented the rule proposals to implement in 2010 (Appendix 43, Exhibit 43).

The 2010 Legislature passed several statutes that require amendment of existing Commission rules for consistency with new laws. The new laws become effective July 1, 2010.

New laws that require rule amendment:

H416 – clarifies waste definition of edible meat, expands species exempt from waste.

H463 – provides Commission authority to establish rules to allow nonresident deer or elk tags to be valid for black bear, mountain lion, or wolf.

S1283 – allows hunter education certification from other countries.

S1285 – allows 9 year olds to apply for controlled turkey hunts.

S1286 – adds raccoons to predatory wildlife.

S1328 – allows release of captured predatory and unprotected wildlife with written landowner permission.

S1342 – allows the Department to require records from taxidermy/fur buyers, adds reporting requirements for purchase of raw cougar and black bear parts

The Commission has both statutory and policy authorities that must be exercised to implement new laws resulting from the 2010 legislative session.

Ms. Kiefer noted that S1342 and H463 rules proposals would be presented at the July meeting.

**10-44 Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner McDermott seconded a motion TO ACCEPT THE RULES AS PRESENTED BY STAFF IN IDAPA 13, TITLE 01, CHAPTERS 2,6,8,9 AND 10.The motion carried in a unanimous vote.**

## **REPORT**

### **Parentage Based Tagging/Genetic Stock Identification Report**

Matthew Campbell, Fish Genetics Lab Manager, presented overviews and applications of genetic stock identification and parentage-based tagging technologies (Appendix 43, Exhibit 44). Genetic stock identification allows estimation of stock proportions within mixed stock fisheries and can be used on wild stocks and hatchery stocks that are sufficiently differentiated. Parentage-based tagging is especially useful for differentiating closely related hatchery stocks and allows the identification of the exact parents of an individual fish, thus identifying their stock of origin and age. Together, these technologies should provide unprecedented tools for managing wild and hatchery salmon and steelhead populations in Idaho and throughout the Columbia River basin.

## **RULES**

### **Nonbiological Rules Briefing**

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

Chief Gould presented the following preliminary list of potential big game proposals (Appendix 43, Exhibit 45) and upland game rule changes to be scoped with the public, and considered by the Commission in July. Chief Gould noted that a workshop on Bonus Points, LAP and Auction Tags would be presented at the July meeting.

#### **Bonus Point System** (Appendix 43, Exhibit 46)

Department staff has developed draft operational details of a bonus point system for Commission review and public scoping. Additionally, staff proposes to conduct a workshop for the Commission at their July meeting to discuss details and options for the proposed system. Topics to cover at the workshop include:

- Background of drawing odds and point systems
- Review 2005 public input survey on bonus points
- Nevada bonus point system overview
- Options specific to Idaho
- Review current public scoping results
- Financial analysis
- Implementation schedule
- Outreach program

#### **Changes to Landowner Appreciation Program**

In 1986 the Legislature passed legislation authorizing the Commission to issue additional controlled deer, elk, and pronghorn permits to landowners having important wildlife habitat. The Commission established initial program eligibility rules in 1987 for what was referred to as the Landowner Preference Permit program. In 1999, the program was renamed the Landowner Appreciation Program and allowed for landowners to designate LAP permits following passage of HB167. In 2001, the Commission rescinded the “reasonable access” requirement for landowners to be eligible for the program.

Some landowners are marketing and selling LAP tags or trespass rights to obtain permits. Licensed outfitters and guides are also obtaining and marketing LAP tags. The marketing and sale of LAP tags is a form of wildlife commercialization, which many sportsmen are opposed to. Additionally, many sportsmen believe the “reasonable access” requirement should be reinstated. Conversely, many landowners believe requiring reasonable access is unreasonable and that receiving compensation for tags or trespass rights offsets the cost of supporting wildlife on private land.

#### **Methods of take for wolves (trappings, electronic calls, bait, depredation hunts) and black bears (depredation hunts)**

Amend rule to allow use of electronic calls as an aid to take mountain lions, *wolves*, and *black bears* during seasons in game management units specified in Proclamation by the Fish and Game Commission.

Rule to allow use of foothold traps and snares to take wolves during seasons in game management units specified by the Fish and Game Commission by Proclamation.

Amend rule to allow use of depredation hunts to remove *wolves* and *bears* implicated in depredations. Intent would be that use of any proposed depredation hunts for wolves or bears not preclude any appropriate USDA Wildlife Services control effort.

Amend rule to allow hunters to take wolves as an incidental opportunity when they come to a bear bait.

#### **Mandatory report and check requirements for harvested wolves**

Amend rule to modify the reporting requirements for wolves. Successful wolf hunters would be required to report harvest within 72 hours of killing a wolf and must check the skull and hide in at an IDFG office within 10 days of kill.

#### **Muzzleloader equipment restrictions (sabots)**

Scope rule to allow use of sabots for big game animals during muzzleloader-only seasons.

#### **Rules to prohibit use of telemetry for hunting big game animals**

Amend rule to prohibit use of radio telemetry or other electronic tracking devices as an aid to take big game animals. This rule would not restrict the ability of sportsmen to use telemetry equipment on their hounds or other sporting dogs.

#### **Bear baiting (consider allowing additional bait sites, clarifying bait type)**

Rather than changing the number of bait sites a person can maintain, we would like regional staff to work with the individual hunters to help them manage their bait sites more effectively and seek local solutions for individual issues.

Amend rule by striking “game animals” and replace it with big game and upland game. This would clarify the rule and clearly allow furbearer species to be used as bait.

#### **Prohibit shooting from boats for upland game hunting**

Scope a proposal that would make it unlawful for any person to take upland game birds from any watercraft. Options to consider would be (1) statewide, (2) restricted to portions of the Salmon, Snake and Clearwater Rivers as designated in 1994, or (3) no change

#### **Take of native reptiles**

In response to requests from legislators to reclassify rattlesnakes and allow for the sale of rattlesnake parts, the Department is developing draft language for rule making in July. Rattlesnakes are currently classified as protected nongame wildlife and parts of snakes cannot be sold.

#### **Changes to furbearer and predatory rules (clarifying bait type, consideration of trap placement rules, raccoons)**

Amend rule by striking “game animals” and replace it with big game and upland game. This would clarify the rule and clearly allow furbearer species to be used as bait or scent.

Amend rule by adding that no person hunting raccoon at night on public land shall require a permit from the Director.

Scope restrictions to traps and snares in areas of bridges, trail heads, and near campgrounds

### **Remove Units 48 and 57 from motorized vehicle rule restrictions**

The travel plan for the Sawtooth Forest was released last year and is now being enforced. Motorized vehicle restrictions were to be used in Units 48 and 57 until a travel plan could effectively address hunting concerns on closed roads.

### **Other changes to clean up rules to meet previous legislation**

IDAPA 13.01.08 - Rules Governing the Taking of Big Game Animals

IDAPA 13.01.04 – Rules Governing Licensing

Chairman Power stated that the consensus of the Commission is to proceed with the scoping of those issues that need to be scoped with the public.

## **REPORTS**

### **Grizzly Bear Update**

Deputy Director Jim Unsworth provided an update on grizzly bear management issues in Idaho to include Commission positions both historical and the one taken recently, the State of Idaho Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Management Plan (Appendix 43, Exhibit 47) and the conservation strategy. Also to facilitate a discussion among the commission on how the commission would like to proceed with grizzly bear policies in the future.

The update provided an overview of information contained in the 2010-2014 Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Plan (Appendix 43, Exhibit 48), as well as local updates specific to the Selkirk, Bitterroot, and Yellowstone ecosystems. The Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee was established in 1983 to coordinate grizzly bear management and research actions of state federal and Canadian agencies, Implement the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan to facilitate recovery of grizzly bears and implement and oversee the management and research activities for recovered grizzly bear populations.

In 1997 the Commission had a statement stating that they opposed reintroduction of grizzly bears. They also made a point to allow the Department to continue with grizzly bear oversight working with the IGBC and other functions associated with grizzly bears.

A power point presentation (Appendix 43, Exhibit 49) was given regarding the Upper Snake Region and Grizzly Bear Issues. The possibility for grizzly bear encounters is increasing. About 200 bears in 1983 to about 600 today in Greater Yellowstone Area. The issues are hunter and public safety, grizzly bear protection and grizzly bear management.

Commissioner Wheeler has concerns with the growing grizzly bear population and the restrictions that are being put on the people. What are we going to do with this population and how are we going to manage the grizzly bear. Are we going to deal strictly with the Primary

Conservation Area which was the intent of the State Management Plan or are we going to allow the population to grow. Commission discussion followed.

Director Groen stated that the Department is not being allowed to manage. We have recovery areas that are not adequate they should be broader, growing social issues that impact the hunters, and he has been resistant to cutting out baiting areas for black bears. For the Commission to be on record the Director suggests that we develop a letter and send it to the Director of Fish and Wildlife Service, and copies to Senator Crapo, congressional delegation and Governor Otter. Commission consensus is for Director Groen to draft a letter exerting state authority.

### **Wolf Update**

Deputy Director Jim Unsworth provided an update and distributed copies of the April Wolf Management Update (Appendix 43, Exhibit 50) and a copy of the 2009-2010 Idaho Wolf Hunting Season Summary (Appendix 43, Exhibit 51).

Wolf harvest seasons closed March 31. Seven wolf management zones closed earlier when harvest limits were met: Upper Snake zone (November 2), McCall-Weiser zone (November 9), Dworshak-Elk City zone (November 17), Palouse-Hells Canyon zone (December 18), Southern Mountains zone (December 31), Middle Fork zone (January 31), and Salmon zone (March 15).

The Department sold 26,428 wolf tags in 2009, and through March 31, had sold 4,972 tags for the 2010 season.

### **Litigation Status**

In June 2009, a coalition of 13 special interest groups filed a legal challenge to the wolf delisting in Federal District Court in Missoula, Montana. The Greater Yellowstone Coalition brought a separate lawsuit, and the cases were consolidated. Their complaints allege the Northern Rocky Mountain wolf population is not recovered and that the delisting violates the Endangered Species Act for several reasons, including challenges to Montana and Idaho's regulatory frameworks and the assertion that it is not legal to delist only a portion of this distinct population. Judge Molloy denied the Plaintiffs' motion for a preliminary injunction to stop wolf hunts in Idaho and Montana on grounds that the Plaintiffs failed to show a likelihood of irreparable harm to the wolf population. The final legal briefs were filed by January 28, 2010. A hearing date for oral arguments was set for June 15. Director's office, wildlife, and legal staff have been meeting with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks staff and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff to stress the critical importance of maintaining state authority to hold a hunting season in fall 2010.

Jeff Gould, Chief, Wildlife, gave a report on the control actions authorized in the Lolo Zone. Chief Gould explained how the Department put this control action in place. The Region updated their existing Lolo and Selway predation management plan, added wolves, bears and lions and put in recent elk survey information from the Lolo Zone. This predation management plan helps guide the Department in managing impacts of predation on the elk herd. Hunting is the primary tool and after the 7 month hunt there were 13 wolves removed from Lolo Zone. The Department determined hunting was not adequate and authorized four backcountry outfitters to assist the

Department in this specific action. The overall limit is 20 wolves during the spring bear season which ends June 30.

### **Wolf Reintroduction and Recovery Timeline**

Mike Keckler, Chief, Communications provided the Commission with a wolf reintroduction and recovery timeline (Appendix 43, Exhibit 52). Included in the exhibit are the minutes from the November 30, 1994 meeting, Idaho Department of Fish and Game Position Statement on Gray Wolves and a copy of the special permit and letter reintroducing gray wolves into Idaho. Director Groen stated that there has been confusion regarding past commission stances in timelines concerning wolf recovery. Chief Keckler stated the timeline begins with the latest action in 2010 and goes back to 1967.

### **Bighorn Sheep Status Report**

Deputy Director Jim Unsworth presented an update on numerous bighorn sheep management issues, including:

1. The Payette National Forest released a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement in January 2010, and expects to announce a decision on the Forest plan appeal in June 2010.
2. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is updating the statewide Bighorn Sheep management Plan, with a draft due to the Fish and Game Commission in July 2010.
3. Idaho Governor “Butch” Otter has convened a stakeholders Working Group providing input to the Department’s planning process.
4. Update on Annual Renewals of Certification Agreements.
5. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game continues efforts to develop information on bighorn sheep management.
  - a. The Hells Canyon Initiative has documented movements of bighorn sheep over more than a decade, and current research (in cooperation with Washington State University) focuses on bighorn sheep diseases.
  - b. A Salmon River Bighorn Sheep Initiative, in partnership with the Nez Perce tribe, was initiated in 2007. This effort has been supported in part by other groups including the American Sheep Industry, wildlife management agencies in Oregon and Washington, and many sportsmen’s groups.

In 2010, bighorn sheep die-offs were reported in states surrounding Idaho (Montana, Washington, Nevada, and Utah). Several states, facing loss of the majority of local bighorn populations, killed a majority of local herds to prevent disease spread.

Francis Cassirer, Wildlife Research Biologist Senior, provided a report on Bighorn Sheep Disease Research (Appendix 43, Exhibit 53). Ms. Cassirer reported that Hells Canyon produces some of the largest bighorn rams in North America. The area is excellent habitat and historically bighorn sheep were abundant. However, despite management efforts including restrictive hunting regulations, habitat protection, and translocations, current sheep numbers remain low.

We have identified pneumonia as the primary factor limiting population growth. This project is focused on finding solutions for managing disease in bighorn sheep.

## RULES

### Season Setting: Chinook Salmon

Ed Schriever, Chief, Fisheries, reported on status of salmon run size and Chinook salmon fisheries in the Clearwater River drainage and on portions of the Snake, Salmon and Little Salmon rivers previously set by the Commission at its March meeting. The agenda item recommended establishing fisheries targeting hatchery-origin Chinook salmon on the South Fork Salmon River and the upper Salmon River. Chinook salmon fisheries were conducted on the South Fork Salmon River in 1997 and 2000 through 2009. The upper Salmon River fishery is proposed to occur on a section of that river from approximately the town of Salmon upstream to the mouth of the Pahsimeroi River. Also under consideration is a fishery between the town of Stanley and the Sawtooth Fish Hatchery weir targeting fish returning to that hatchery. For all fishing areas, staff is forecasting the return of a sufficient number of hatchery salmon to allow sport fisheries that target the non-tribal harvestable share when hatchery production and brood stock targets are considered.

The proposals (Appendix 43, Exhibit 54) were presented to the Commission. Fisheries also proposed to increase the daily and possession limits on previously established salmon fisheries in the Salmon and Little Salmon rivers to 5 per day, only 3 of which may be adults and 15 in possession, only 9 of which may be adults. In addition to these bag limit increases fisheries also proposed the annual statewide limit for adult Chinook be increased to 40.

**10-45 Commissioner Trevey moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a motion TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED 2010 CHINOOK SALMON FISHING SEASONS FOR SOUTH FORK SALMON RIVER AND UPPER SALMON RIVER, INCREASES TO BAG LIMITS ON PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED FISHERIES IN THE SALMON AND LITTLE SALMON RIVERS AND INCREASE OF THE ANNUAL STATEWIDE LIMIT OF ADULT CHINOOK AS OUTLINED BY STAFF. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.**

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Election of Commission Chairman, Vice Chairman

Acting Chairman Power thanked the Commission for the opportunity to serve as vice chairman however he would like to withdraw from consideration for Chairman for personal reasons.

**10-46 Commissioner Trevey moved and Commissioner Wheeler seconded a motion TO EXTEND THE TERM FOR WAYNE WRIGHT AS CHAIRMAN AND TONY MCDERMOTT TO SERVE AS VICE CHAIRMAN. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.**

## LANDS

### Land Acquisition: Colston Ranch

Gregg Servheen, Wildlife Program Coordinator, presented the Colston Ranch land acquisition to the Commission. This is a fee-title for fee-title exchange with a landowner on the Salmon River in Lemhi County. The landowner will gain fee-title of the Department's 98-acre Colston property, which is on the Department's disposal list, with covenant specifying a 100-foot setback from the river. The 100-foot setback restricts the removal of vegetation except when needed to control for noxious weeds, and development with the exception of the area needed to anchor a bridge.

The Department would gain fee-title of the landowner's 8.3-acre property located on Highway 75, with an easement on the property that he would hold, allowing the construction of a bridge and access road, as well as stipulating access to and from the Salmon River. The easement on the 8.3 acres restricts the width of the access road and bridge to 50 feet, and the landowner is solely responsible for maintenance of the road and bridge. The landowner will be allowed temporary storage of materials or equipment for the building of the roadway and bridge, but these activities are not to interfere with public access. Also, the landowner must ensure that the use or any interference from the construction of the roadway and bridge be minimized to avoid interference with the Department's improvements and their public use. The easement also restricts use of the roadway and bridge for any commercial use. The landowner also wants first right of refusal to purchase the property back should the Department want to sell.

No buildings are part of the exchange.

The property was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session on November 7, 2008.

**10-47 Commissioner McDermott moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a motion TO ACCEPT THE LANDS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR THE COLSTON RANCH AND PROCEED WITH THE PROPERTY EXCHANGE. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.**

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Executive Session

**10- 48 Commissioner Trevey moved and Commissioner McDermott seconded a motion TO 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: Budge: aye; Wheeler: aye; Trevey: aye; Barowsky: aye; McDermott: aye; Power: aye. Vote tally: 6 ayes.**

The executive session ended at 3:10 p.m. with no action taken. The Commission discussed with legal counsel matters related to pending litigation involving wolf delisting, Wildlife Services wolf control actions, wilderness helicopter landings for wolf radio collaring, grizzly bears, Idaho Woolgrowers and the Farragut Shooting Range. The Commission also discussed three potential property acquisitions.

**10-49 Commissioner Trevey moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a motion TO ADJOURN. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.**

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Wayne Wright  
Chairman

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Cal Groen  
Secretary