

# Idaho Fish and Game Commission

## Quarterly Meeting Agenda - November 17-18, 2010

Magic Valley Regional Office, 324 S. 417 East, Jerome, ID 83338

Note: Times on the agenda are approximate and subject to change.

### NOVEMBER 17

- 7:00 a.m. Field Tour Hagerman Area
- 4:00 p.m. Executive Session I.C. 67-2345(1) (f)
- 7:00 p.m. Public Hearing — Magic Valley Regional Office, 324 S. 417 East, Jerome, ID

### NOVEMBER 18

- 8:00 a.m. 1. Opening Comments — Wayne Wright, Commission Chairman
- 8:05 a.m. 2. Agenda Changes — Wayne Wright, Commission Chairman
- 8:10 a.m. 3. Review of Public Comment — Wayne Wright, Commission Chairman
- 8:20 a.m. 4. Director's Report — Cal Groen, Director
- 8:40 a.m. 5. Commission Reports — Commissioners
- 9:15 a.m. 6. Consent Calendar (Action Requested by Department)

- a. Minutes
- b. [Financial Report](#)

- 9:20 a.m. 7. [Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation Report](#) — Ann Dehner, Executive Director

### 9:35 A.M. — BREAK

- 9:55 a.m. 8. [2011-2012 Fishing Regulations](#) (Action Requested by Department) — Bill Horton, State Fisheries Manager

### [Recommendations for 2011 – 2012 Fishing Rules](#)

- 10:40 a.m. 9. [Fishery Plan Implementation - Conservation and Management Actions for Native Fish](#) — Bill Horton, State Fisheries Manager
- 11:25 a.m. 10. [Update on the Mitchell Act \(Salmon and Steelhead Hatcheries\) DEIS](#) — Peter Hassemer, Anadromous Fish Manager
- 11:40 a.m. 11. [Trophy Species Update](#) — Dale Toweill, Wildlife Program Coordinator

### NOON — LUNCH

- 1:00 p.m. 12. ["Be Outside" Update](#) — Vicky Runnoe, Conservation Education Supervisor
- 1:15 p.m. 13. [Legislative Update](#) — Sharon Kiefer, Assistant Director-Policy
- 1:30 p.m. 14. [Western Governors Association Decision Support Pilot Project Report](#) — Sharon Kiefer, Assistant Director-Policy
- 1:45 p.m. 15. [Wildlife Salvage Options](#) (Action Requested by Department) — Sharon Kiefer, Assistant Director-Policy

- 2:00 p.m. 16. [Final Implementation of Temporary Employee Conversion/Consolidation Plan](#) — Cal Groen, Director
- 2:15 p.m. 17. [Bighorn Sheep Management Plan](#) (Action Requested by Department) — Dale Toweill, Wildlife Program Coordinator
- 2:45 p.m. 18. [FY 2010 Wolf Related Expenditures Information Report](#)

Status of Ungulate Focus Action (Including 10(j)) — Jeff Gould, Chief, Wildlife

Update on Wolf Delisting Strategies — Sharon Kiefer, Assistant Director-Policy

**3:05 P.M. — BREAK**

- 3:30 p.m. 19. [Turkey - Waterfowl Collaborative Update](#) — Virgil Moore, Deputy Director
- 4:00 p.m. 20. Set Commission Calendar — Wayne Wright, Commission Chairman
- 4:05 p.m. 21. Representative to WAFWA — Wayne Wright, Commission Chairman
- 4:10 p.m. 22. [Commission Position Statement on Grizzly Bears in the Yellowstone Eco System](#) (Action Requested by Department) — Jim Unsworth, Deputy Director
- 4:20 p.m. 23. Executive Session I.C. 67-2345(1) (b)(c) (f)

**RECESS**

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**Meeting Date:** November 18, 2010

**Agenda Item No. 6b**

**Agenda Item:** Financial Report

**Bureau Chief Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Jim Lau, Chief, Bureau of Administration

**Background:**

Update the Commission on the Financial Status of the Department

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:**

None

**Public Involvement Process:**

None

**Staff Recommendation:**

None

**Justification:**

None

**Meeting Date:** November 18-19, 2010

**Agenda Item No. 7**

**Agenda Item:** Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation Report **Bureau Chief Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Ann Dehner

**Background:**

Commission has requested updates about the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation activities.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:**

None

**Public Involvement Process:**

None

**Staff Recommendation:**

Present update as follows.

**Justification:**

Requested by Commission.

1. The sale of the Springfield Hatchery (Region 5) to the Commission closed on July 12, 2010 to become the new sockeye conservation hatchery.
2. The sale of the DeMeyer/Charcoal Creek (Region 3) property to the Commission closed on August 26, 2010.
3. The Foundation's audit for the 2009 fiscal year (January-December) has been completed and approved with no material findings to report.
4. The new design for the Bluebird specialty license plate was introduced through the Idaho Department of Transportation on August 1, 2010. The Bluebird plate follows the completion of new designs for the Elk and Cutthroat Trout plates over the past two years. The wildlife license plates generate revenue for the Department's nongame wildlife programs. The wildlife license plates continue to be the most popular among those in the State's specialty license plate program.
5. The Foundation is currently planning for its annual online auction, to be held February 18-27, 2011. The fundraising event will again offer unique educational and outdoor experiences, in addition to related auction items, in an online format that is growing in recognition and popularity. All trips with department personnel have a fish or wildlife management purpose.
6. The Foundation has begun a strategic planning process to update its last strategic plan that expired in 2008. It is anticipated that the future direction for programs, projects and operations of the Foundation will be identified through this process. The Foundation wishes to engage members of the Fish and Game Commission in this process and will solicit the Commission's input as the process unfolds.

**Meeting Date:** November 18, 2010

**Agenda Item No. 8**

**Agenda Item:** 2011 – 2012 Fishing Seasons and Rules

**Bureau Chief Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Bill Horton/Dave Parrish -Fisheries Bureau

**Background:**

By statute, fishing rules are set through IDFG Commission action on a regular basis. Fishing rules for Idaho were last set by the Commission in November 2007 and implemented in January 2008. They were intended to be valid for a two-year period. The Commission extended the existing rules one additional year (2010) to allow the Department to develop a new format for the 2011 – 2012 fishing rules booklet.

In an attempt to simplify Idaho's fishing rules and make them easier for the public to understand, we are presenting the rules in a new format (newspaper versus tabular), opening more seasons year around (where there won't be biological impacts to fish populations), and implementing regional bag limits (rather than statewide bag limits) so we can reduce the number of rule exceptions for each region.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:**

Idaho Code Sections 36-104(b) and 36-901. IDAPA 13.01.11.000

**Public Involvement Process:**

The public has been invited to provide input through local scoping meetings, press releases, sportsman's gatherings, regional e-mail sites, and through our Department website. We've also conducted a random mail survey of 1,000 anglers in each IDFG Region and 1,000 steelhead cardholders, statewide to evaluate the Department's recommendations.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that you approve the proposed Fish Rules for 2011 -2012 through Commission Action.

**Justification:**

This action item allows IDFG to update and simplify fish rules that have been in-place since January 2008 and provide the public more fishing opportunity.

Department Recommendations for 2011 – 2012 Fishing Rules  
October 27, 2010

**Panhandle Region Rule Change Recommendations:**

*Move the following Commission approved proposals forward as final recommendations.*

**Proposal 1: Change the general stream season in Panhandle Region to “open all year”**

**Proposal 2: Apply a catch-and-release cutthroat trout rule to only the following waters in the Spokane River drainage (currently, the rule applies to the entire Spokane River drainage):**

- St. Joe River and all tributaries (except St. Maries River—see Proposal 3)
- Coeur d’Alene River and all tributaries
- Coeur d’Alene Lake (includes Benewah, Chatcolet, Round, and the Coeur d’Alene River chain lakes) and all tributaries. Excludes Lake and Benewah creeks which are closed to fishing.

**Proposal 3: Change the fishing season for the St. Maries River and all its tributaries to allow trout harvest (including cutthroat trout) to:**

- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout limit is 2
- December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend – trout limit is 2; cutthroat trout limit is 0, catch-and-release

**Proposal 4: Change the quality trout rule in the Kootenai River to only apply to rainbow and cutthroat trout (2-trout, none under 16”)**

**Proposal 5: Manage Hayden Lake under general (6-trout any size) fish rule. This would replace the existing 2-trout, none under 16” rule**

**Proposal 6: Establish a general bag limit of 15 kokanee per day in the Panhandle Region**

**Proposal 7: Establish a general bag limit of 2 Chinook salmon per day, none under 20” in the Panhandle Region**

**Proposal 8A: Consolidate rules on streams in the Pend Oreille drainage to provide additional opportunity and simplify rules while maintaining protection on native fish populations**

- A) Opening tributaries “all year” (except those that would be “closed to fishing” to protect fish populations).
- B) Implementing a “closed to fishing” rule on Granite Creek and its tributaries.
- C) Implementing a “catch and release” rule **for cutthroat trout** in the following rivers and streams in the Pend Oreille River drainage where cutthroat trout harvest is currently allowed.
  - Pack River and all tributaries
  - Pend Oreille River
  - Priest River and all tributaries from mouth to Priest Lake
  - The following Pend Oreille Lake tributaries: Sand, Strong, Riser, Bayview, and Mirror creeks and their tributaries

**Proposal 8B: Limits for trout (i.e. brown trout, lake trout, and rainbow trout) other than cutthroat currently range from 2 to “no limit” for rainbow trout. To simplify and consolidate, we propose to implement a general (6-trout) limit on the following streams:**

- Clark Fork River and all tributaries (includes Lightning Creek drainage and Spring Creek)
- Pack River and all tributaries (includes Grouse and Rapid Lightning creeks)
- Sand, Strong, Riser, Bayview, and Mirror creeks and their tributaries

**Proposal 9: Eliminate the fishing closure in the Priest Lake Thorofare**

**Proposal 10: Eliminate fishing closure on Gillon Creek Diversion currently applied from Gillon Creek to Robinson Lake**

**Proposal 11: Eliminate the fishing closure on Deep Creek currently applied between McArthur Reservoir Dam and Highway 95**

**Proposal 12: Establish an “open all year” season on McArthur Reservoir**

**Proposal 13: Eliminate the “no limit on bass” rule in Bonner Lake and manage the lake under the regional general bag limit of 6-bass**

**Proposal 14: Eliminate the “Electric Motors Only” while fishing rule on the following waters:**

- Little Round Lake
- Porcupine Lake
- Elsie Lake
- Stoneridge Reservoir

**Proposal 15: Eliminate “any size fish may be kept” rule currently applied to the Hauser Lake Outlet**

**Proposal 16: Eliminate the kokanee harvest closure on Priest Lake, Upper Priest Lake and Upper Priest River and their tributaries. These waters would then be managed under the general kokanee bag limit**

**Proposal 17: Extend the quality largemouth rule (bass limit is 6, but only two may be largemouth bass, and largemouth bass must be at least 16”) currently in the Pend Oreille River to adjacent sloughs and tributaries by inserting “including all tributaries and sloughs to the edge of flat water” with Pend Oreille River**

**Clearwater Region 2011 – 2012 Rule Change Recommendations:**

*Move all Commission approved proposals forward as final recommendations except proposal 6.*

- Proposal 1.** Change the general stream season in the Clearwater Region to “open all year”
- Proposal 2.** Reduce the general trout bag limit to 2-fish on rivers and streams
- Proposal 3.** Change the trout limit on the Clearwater, N.F. Clearwater (downstream of dam), S.F. Clearwater, and Snake rivers so that only 6 adipose-clipped trout could be kept
- Proposal 4.** Change the N.F. Clearwater (above the reservoir), lower Lochsa, and lower Selway rivers to catch-and-release for trout from December 1 to the Friday before Memorial Day.
- Proposal 5.** Change the trout limit on the M.F. Clearwater River to 2-trout, none under 14 inches from Memorial Day weekend to November 30 and catch-and-release the rest of the year.
- Proposal 6.** ~~Prohibit the use of bait during the catch-and-release steelhead season in the Clearwater River Basin.~~ Not forwarded as a recommendation to the Commission.
- Proposal 7.** Eliminate the barbless hook restrictions on the N.F. Clearwater (downstream of dam), main Clearwater, and M.F. Clearwater rivers except while fishing for salmon or steelhead
- Proposal 8.** Allow the use of only single-pointed, barbless hooks when fishing for salmon or steelhead in the S.F. Clearwater River
- Proposal 9.** Change the no motor restriction on the Clearwater and M.F. Clearwater rivers to September 1 - April 30, and move the upstream boundary to the confluence of the Selway and Lochsa rivers
- Proposal 10.** Allow the use of only maggots as bait on the N.F. Clearwater, lower Lochsa and lower Selway rivers from December 1 through the Friday before Memorial Day
- Proposal 11.** Change the fishing season on Dworshak Reservoir upstream of Grandad Bridge to “open all year”
- Proposal 12.** Eliminate the rule prohibiting the use of gasoline boat motors on Elk Creek Reservoir

**Southwest Region 2011 – 2012 Rule Change Recommendations:**

*Move the following proposals forward as final recommendations*

**Proposal 1. Change the general stream season in the Southwest Region to “open all year”**

**Proposal 2. Payette Lake - lake trout limit is 1, none over 30 inches**

**Proposal 3. Brundage Reservoir - Trout limit is 2, none over 14 inches, no bait**

**Magic Valley Region 2011 – 2012 Rule Change Recommendations:**

*Move all Commission approved proposals forward as final recommendations*

**Proposal 1. Change the general stream season in Magic Valley Region to “open all year”**

**Proposal 2. Change the Magic Valley Region general bag and daily possession limit to 6 for walleye**

**Proposal 3. Adopt a year-round stream fishing season on the Malad River and increase the bag limits to:**

- **Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout limit is 6**
- **December 1 through the Friday before Memorial Day weekend – trout limit is 0, catch-and-release**

**Proposal 4. Extend stream season in all Big Wood River tributaries upstream of Magic Reservoir to:**

- **Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout limit is 6**
- **December 1 through March 31 – trout limit 0, catch-and-release**
- **April 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend – closed to fishing**

**Proposal 5. Remove the existing 16 inch length limit for cutthroat trout in the Snake River upstream from Shoshone Falls**

**Proposal 6. Adopt a year-round stream season on Vinyard Creek (tributary to Snake River-Twin Falls Reservoir):**

- **Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 – trout limit is 2**
- **December 1 through Friday before Memorial Day weekend – trout limit is 0, catch-and-release**

**Southeast Region 2011 – 2012 Rule Change Recommendations:**

*Move the following Commission approved proposals forward as final recommendations*

**Proposal 1. Change the general stream season in Southeast Region to “open all year”**

**Proposal 2. Establish a winter catch-and-release season on the upper Portneuf River from East Main Street Bridge in Lava Hot Springs upriver to Chesterfield Reservoir**

- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30 - trout limit is 6, no harvest of cutthroat trout
- December 1 through the Friday before Memorial Day weekend - trout limit is 0, catch-and-release; no bait allowed; barbless hooks required

**Proposal 3. Establish a winter catch-and-release season on the Snake River below American Falls Reservoir Dam:**

- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through October 31: bass limit is 2, any size may be kept; trout limit is 6, only 2 over 16” and only 2 of the 6 trout limit may be cutthroat trout
- November 1 through the Friday before Memorial Day weekend no harvest season for all species of fish; catch-and-release; no bait allowed; barbless hooks required

**Proposal 4. Allow the harvest of 2-cutthroat trout from the mouth of the Blackfoot River upstream to Government Dam and remove the 16 inch minimum size restriction on cutthroat trout in the Cedar Creek to Government Dam reach**

**Proposal 5. Allow the harvest of 2-trout in the Bear River (no cutthroat trout) from the Utah state line to Oneida Dam and allow the harvest of 6-trout (no cutthroat trout) from Oneida Dam to Wyoming state line**

**Proposal 6. Change the bag limit on Oneida Reservoir to 6-walleye and open for fishing year-around**

**Proposal 7. Close Fish Haven Creek from the Cache National Forest boundary to the confluence with Bear Lake to fishing from December 1 to June 30**

**Upper Snake Region 2011 – 2012 Rule Change Recommendations:**

*Move the following Commission approved proposals forward as final recommendations*

**Proposal 1. Change the general stream season in Upper Snake Region to “open all year”**

**Proposal 2. Extend or establish fishing seasons on the South Fork Snake River tributaries, Teton River tributaries, Willow Creek tributaries and Henrys Lake tributaries from July 1 through March 31, and maintain cutthroat trout fishing; catch-and-release, only**

**Proposal 3. Change the brook trout bag limit on Henrys Lake tributaries to 25 brook trout with only 2 brook trout over 16”**

**Proposal 4. Open Moose Creek (Fremont County) all year with a catch-and-release only season from December 1 through the Friday before Memorial Day weekend**

**Proposal 5. Open Palisades Lakes (not Palisades Reservoir) all year for fishing**

**Proposal 6. Remove the minimum harvest size restriction (16”) and bag limit (2) from cutthroat trout in the Upper Snake Region outside of their native range. This would allow harvest of cutthroat trout in the daily trout bag limit (6 trout, any size) in the following areas: Big Lost River and tributaries, Little Lost River and tributaries and Birch Creek and tributaries**

**Proposal 7. Allow only catch-and-release fishing on cutthroat trout in rivers and streams within their native range in the Upper Snake Region. This would include: the Willow Creek drainage, South Fork Snake River drainage, Teton drainage, Henrys Fork drainage and Medicine Lodge drainage**

**Proposal 8. Change the Box Canyon, Last Chance, and Mack’s Inn reaches of the Henrys Fork Snake River to “open all year” with a catch-and-release season from December 1 through the Friday before Memorial Day weekend**

**Proposal 9. Open the fishing season on Henrys Lake from the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through January 1. The choices offered anglers in the rules survey were:**

- A. Close fishing season on October 31 (closing date prior to 2006)
- B. Close fishing season on November 30 (current closing date)
- C. Close fishing season on December 31
- D. Close fishing season on January 31
- E. I have no opinion

**Salmon Region 2011 – 2012 Rule Change Recommendations:**

*Move all Commission approved proposals forward as final recommendations*

- Proposal 1. Change the general stream season in Salmon Region to “open all year” with a catch-and-release only season from December 1 through the Friday before Memorial Day weekend**
- Proposal 2. Open all tributaries to the Middle Fork Salmon River to catch-and-release fishing. This would eliminate the Loon and Camas creeks tributary exceptions**
- Proposal 3. Eliminate the 2-fish harvest rule in tributaries of Loon and Camas creeks**
- Proposal 4. Eliminate the cutthroat trout protective rule (no harvest) and the “adipose clipped rainbow trout only” rule for Valley Creek**
- Proposal 5. Eliminate the catch and release fishing only rule on Valley Creek lakes 1 and 2**
- Proposal 6. Eliminate the catch-and-release fishing only rule on Yellowbelly Lake**
- Proposal 7. Change the trout limit on Herd Lake and Jimmy Smith Lake from the general 6-trout limit to a 25-trout limit**
- Proposal 8. Change the Salmon Region general bag limit from 6-kokanee to 25-kokanee**

**Meeting Date:** November 17-18, 2010

**Agenda Item No. 9**

**Agenda Item:** Fishery Plan Implementation—  
conservation and management actions  
for native sport fish (informational)

**Bureau Chief Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Scott Grunder/Bill Horton - Fisheries Bureau

**Background:** The Idaho Fish and Game Commission has approved a number of fishery management and conservation plans during the past several years for native sport fish including Yellowstone and Bonneville cutthroat trout, Big Lost River mountain whitefish, and Snake River white sturgeon. Each of these plans identified a number of management actions that Department staff would initiate in collaboration with other agencies, private landowners, and stakeholders. The Fisheries Bureau will provide the Commission with an update on accomplishments to date in implementing the management actions identified in native species management plans.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:** These management and conservation plans were approved by the Idaho Fish and Game Commission. The Commission sets policy and provides direction, considers input from the public, and has the authority to adopt, amend, or reject Department-recommended plans. These plans are being implemented by the Department as per its authority in Idaho Code Section 36-103. The Department's strategic plan has goals that pertain to the management of native species of wildlife and fish.

**Public Involvement Process:** The fishery management and conservation plans went through the Commission-approved public involvement process.

**Staff Recommendation:** Not applicable. Informational only.

**Justification:** The Fisheries Bureau wants to provide the Commission with an update regarding implementation of management actions identified in native species management and conservation plans.

**Meeting Date:** November 17-18, 2010

**Agenda Item No. 10**

**Agenda Item:** Briefing on NOAA's draft EIS for Mitchell Act Hatcheries

**Bureau Chief Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Pete Hassemer, Anadromous Fisheries Manager

**Background:**

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:**

**Public Involvement Process:**

**Staff Recommendation:**

**Justification:** This is a briefing to inform the Commission on IDFG staffs' review of the draft EIS, the potential impact of the EIS on Idaho hatchery programs, and the review and comment process for the draft EIS.

**Meeting Date:** November 18, 2010

**Agenda Item No.** 11

**Agenda Item:** Biological Rules for Moose, Sheep,  
and Goat

**Bureau Chief Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Dale Toweill

**Background:**

A biennial report on trophy species status in Idaho and issues to be scoped during public hearings is presented in November of each even-numbered year, preceding adoption of harvest regulations in January of each odd-numbered year.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:**

None. This item is to inform Commissioners of issues and concerns relative to statewide management of moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats for the 2011 and 2012 seasons.

**Public Involvement Process:**

Regional open houses statewide; news releases in all media outlets; information and questionnaire available on the Department's website. Public input will be summarized in January when final recommendations are presented.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff requests permission to solicit public input on these items and others as may be brought forward by the public.

**Justification:**

Establish harvest opportunities for moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat during 2011-2012.

**Meeting Date:** November 18, 2010

**Agenda Item No. 12**

**Agenda Item:** “Be Outside” Update

**Bureau Chief Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Keckler

**Background:**

Conservation Education Supervisor Vicky Runnoe will update the Commission on the department’s involvement in the “Be Outside” Initiative and give a presentation on her project for the Certified Public Managers program titled “A Camp Counselor’s Guide to Wild Campers.” The guide is intended to give counselors ideas to help spark interest in outdoor-related activities among young campers. The project earned a top grade in the CPM program.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:**

none

**Public Involvement Process:**

none

**Staff Recommendation:**

none

**Justification:**

none

**Meeting Date:** November 18, 2010

**Agenda Item No. 13**

**Agenda Item:** Legislative Update

**Bureau Chief Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Sharon W. Kiefer

**Background:** Staff will review the Commission legislative process used during the 2010 session including Commission conference calls and the legislative analysis process to gain Commission guidance for the upcoming 2011 session. The legislative analysis sheet used during the 2010 session is attached for consideration.

Staff will also update the Commission about status of Department-sponsored legislative proposals for 2011. Department legislative proposals to: 1) Create additional big game auction tags and 2) Create Commission authority for a mentored hunting program have been approved by the Governor and forwarded to the Legislature.

Staff will also brief the Commission about work to address a legislative request to consider Hunter Education live fire exercise exemption for military personnel and peace officers that could result in a rule change in IDAPA 13.01.02.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:** Information is provided to facilitate Commission discussion and process guidance for the upcoming legislative session.

**Public Involvement Process:** Will occur for future Commission meetings.

**Staff Recommendation:** Continue a 2011 legislative process similar to 2010 with modification as directed by the Commission, including establishing the 2011 calendar. Direct staff to initiate support work such as public notice to implement the Commission legislative process.

**Justification:** Define the Commission's legislative process to facilitate timely and effective policy input during the 2011 legislative session.

**Meeting Date:** November 18

**Agenda Item No. 14**

**Agenda Item:** Western Governors' Association  
Decision Support Pilot Projects Briefing

**Bureau Chief Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Sharon W. Kiefer

**Background:** In 2007, largely in response to burgeoning renewable energy and electrical transmission project proposals in the West, the Western Governors' Association (WGA) adopted policy to identify key wildlife migration corridors, crucial habits, and options for preserving landscapes recognizing that landscape scale wildlife information was critical to respond to new energy proposals. As part of implementing policy, the governors directed their states to come together and coordinate their data to produce compatible transboundary wildlife and habitat information in Decision Support Systems (DSS) to enhance landscape-scale wildlife conservation.

To support this initiative, WGA received a \$3 million grant in spring, 2010, from the U.S. Department of Energy for 17 states to launch eight wildlife DSS pilot projects. State fish and wildlife agencies building the two-year pilots across the western region are coordinating their efforts to build compatible DSS. Each participating state is coordinating its wildlife data with neighboring states, applying common definitions for crucial habitat and wildlife corridors. The Department is involved in two pilots focusing on the Columbia Plateau (arid lands) with Oregon and Washington and focusing on the high divide border with Montana. Other funding, including from the USFWS Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) has also been leveraged to support development of the DSS.

Providing such landscape-scale maps will allow states and the public to better understand potential effects to crucial wildlife habitat and important corridors, and to identify opportunities to minimize impacts to wildlife while still pursuing necessary development. These are tools for decision making, not regulatory mechanisms. Consistent regional wildlife information will provide certainty to industry and allow state wildlife agencies to prioritize limited conservation funding.

An issue brief from WGA is attached.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:** Instituting transboundary compatible wildlife data will require policy guidance. Cross-state work for fish and wildlife falls within Commission authority.

**Public Involvement Process:** There is continuing public involvement through the WGA Wildlife Council Stakeholder Advisory Group and public WGA Wildlife Council meetings. States developing each pilot project will also engage the public and potential users of this tool for advice and input. Commission and State approval of the Idaho-based DSS will also entail public involvement.

**Staff Recommendation:** Review progress on the DSS pilot projects periodically and advise the Commission of any fish and wildlife policy issues needing resolution.

**Justification:** The DSS tool will enhance Department technical capacity to evaluate and advise about effects of landscape-scale infrastructure development to crucial wildlife habitats and corridors and will enhance fish and wildlife management and conservation.

**Meeting Date:** November 18

**Agenda Item No. 15**

**Agenda Item:** Wildlife Salvage Options

**Bureau Chief Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Sharon W. Kiefer

**Background:** During the 2010 session, there was legislative interest in mechanisms for the public to salvage wildlife, including allowance for sale of salvaged wildlife specifically from vehicle collision. The Department committed to evaluate existing mechanisms for wildlife salvage and consider options to enhance them for Commission consideration and direction.

There is a mix of statutory and rule provisions that allow for salvage (i.e. possession), of animal parts obtained from methods of legal take other than hunting. Idaho Code (I.C.) 36-501 provides for sale and purchase of certain parts of wildlife, including legally taken unprotected wildlife, legally taken parts of game animals and pelts/parts of furbearers. Similarly, I.C. 36-502 gives guidance for possession of wildlife. IDAPA 13.01.10 addresses recovery, possession and sale of wildlife parts. Key to I.C. and IDAPA is that wildlife must have been “legally taken”. A key issue to consider for the salvage issue is that unintentional vehicular collision is not defined as a legal method of take. Also, there are restrictions on the purchase, barter or sale of edible flesh of certain wildlife but there are existing Department mechanisms to allow possession for personal consumption.

I.C. 36-501 gives the Commission the authority to permit “by rule” the sale of parts of wildlife when such sale will not injuriously affect the species permitted. Coupled with IDAPA 13.01.10.300.02, which states that protected species of wildlife that have died naturally or accidentally remain in public trust to be disposed of by the Department, staff believes that the Commission does have the authority to enhance salvage opportunity specifically for wildlife accidentally killed by unintentional vehicle collision by amending rule and giving policy guidance to the Department to create an appropriate reporting and possession mechanism.

A key question for Commission guidance is whether the Commission desires enhanced salvage opportunity to include only possession or also sale of salvaged wildlife, particularly from vehicle collision (i.e. man-caused, non-natural death). Staff evaluation suggests that providing for sale of salvaged wildlife would require rule modification whereas providing for salvage only (no sale) likely requires only policy enhancement.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:** Salvage of wildlife falls within either statute or the rule and policy authority of the Commission to address.

**Public Involvement Process:** The Commission process for either rulemaking or policy direction provides for public involvement. Future legislative review of any new or amended rules would also provide for public involvement.

**Staff Recommendation:** Provide policy direction regarding the preferred scope for salvage, particularly regarding whether salvage should include a mechanism for sale.

**Justification:** Legislative interest prompted staff evaluation for Commission consideration.

**Meeting Date:** November 18, 2010

**Agenda Item No. 16**

**Agenda Item:** 16

**Bureau Chief Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:**

**Background:**

Last year the Department prepared an Employee Consolidation business plan requesting 39 new FTE's and eliminating 53 temporary employees. This plan was approved by the Governor and the Legislature and resulted in the Department receiving approval to hire 39 new positions. To date, the Department has filled 38 of these positions and is in the process of evaluating a new employee classification for the remaining FTE. The Department now has a total of 568 classified employees. The saving from this efficiency move was \$200,000. There are presently internal discussions regarding other consolidation efficiency opportunities.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:**

**Public Involvement Process:**

**Staff Recommendation:**

**Justification:**

**Meeting Date:** November 18, 2010

**Agenda Item No.** 17

**Agenda Item:** Bighorn Sheep Species Plan

**Bureau Chief Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Dale Toweill

**Background:**

A Statewide Bighorn Sheep Species Plan was prepared by staff with public input during 2010. The draft of this plan was reviewed by Commissioners and released for public review in September 2010.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:**

Statewide species management plans were initiated in 1976 and have been revised periodically since that time. Legislative action in 2009 (SB 1232) mandated that IDFG prepare a statewide bighorn sheep species plan “... *to maintain a viable, self-sustaining population of bighorn sheep in Idaho which shall consider as part of the plan the current federal or state domestic sheep grazing allotment(s), that currently have any bighorn sheep upon or in proximity to the allotment(s) ...*” incorporated in **Idaho Code** at 36-106(e)5(E).

**Public Involvement Process:**

Idaho bighorn sheep-domestic sheep working group; Regional open houses statewide; news releases in all media outlets; information and questionnaire on the IDFG website.

**Action Requested:**

Adopt draft Statewide Bighorn Sheep Management Plan as amended to reflect additional public input.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Adopt as final.

**Justification:**

Idaho Code 36-106.

**Meeting Date:** November 18, 2010

**Agenda Item No. 18**

**Agenda Item:** FY 2010 Wolf-related Expenditures  
Information Report

**Bureau Chief Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Jeff Gould

**Background:**

In August, the Commission requested a summary of FY10 wolf management expenditures. In cooperation with the Administration Bureau, the attached expenditure breakdown was created using the department's cost accounting system. These numbers are preliminary and will be verified prior to the Commission meeting.

Department expenditures exceeded \$1.7 million on wolf-related activities during FY10. Primary activities were research (46%), monitoring (26%), coordination/administration (13%), and other management functions including enforcement, legal, outreach, harvest reporting, and depredations (15%).

These expenditures do not include expenses paid by OSC (e.g. compensation, administration, ADCB) or Defenders of Wildlife (e.g. compensation, prevention).

Sources of funding included license funds (\$558,400), Federal Aid or PR-Wildlife Restoration (\$310,100), Federal wolf appropriations (\$868,100), and other grants (\$1,900). Federal Aid requires 25% nonfederal match which was included in the license fund category.

Nearly 60% of all license expenditures supported ungulate research evaluating impacts of wolf predation and also enhanced ungulate monitoring (\$329,700). The remaining license expenditures supported Administration/Coordination (\$92,300), Legal (\$80,300), Enforcement (\$23,300), Depredations (\$14,200), Harvest Management (\$10,500), and Outreach (\$7,900). These expenditures were charged to existing base budgets supported by license revenue.

Revenue from the sale of wolf tags was approximately \$451,200 in FY2010. An additional \$20,000 was received through the sale of 10 wolf auction/lottery tags. Federal wolf appropriations were \$674,000 in FY10 but additional carryover existed from prior years which covered additional expenses paid during FY10.

The report to the commission will emphasize how license dollars were expended and what accomplishments were made during the period of time when wolves were delisted and managed by the State. First quarter expenditures for FY11 will also be presented.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:**

Idaho is no longer the designated agent to manage wolves in Idaho while wolves are federally protected. Idaho will refocus efforts on protecting ungulates and ensure Idaho sportsmen dollars will not be spent on managing wolves until the species is delisted.

**Public Involvement Process:**

Information only

**Staff Recommendation:**

Information only

**Justification:**

Financial review of expenditures during a period when wolves were delisted and managed by the State will help establish appropriate funding levels for top priorities in the future.

Wolf Management Activity	Fund Source				Total
	License	Federal Aid (PR)	Federal Appropriation	Other Grants	
Research <sup>a</sup>	\$309,029	\$270,670	\$222,604	\$0	\$802,303
Monitoring <sup>b</sup>	\$20,669	\$9,528	\$412,466	\$1,534	\$444,197
Admin/Coord <sup>c</sup>	\$92,290	\$23,691	\$117,069	\$0	\$233,050
Enforcement <sup>d</sup>	\$23,293	\$10	\$60,120	\$49	\$83,473
Legal <sup>e</sup>	\$80,288	\$256	\$476	\$0	\$81,020
Outreach <sup>f</sup>	\$7,942	\$1,346	\$24,763	\$311	\$34,362
Harvest <sup>g</sup>	\$10,525	\$1,852	\$14,073	\$0	\$26,450
Depredation <sup>h</sup>	\$14,191	\$2,722	\$7,486	\$0	\$24,399
Other	\$126	\$21	\$9,063	\$0	\$9,210
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$558,353<sup>i</sup></b>	<b>\$310,096</b>	<b>\$868,121</b>	<b>\$1,895</b>	<b>\$1,738,465</b>

*Note: These numbers are preliminary and will be verified prior to the Commission meeting.*

<sup>a</sup> – evaluating impacts of wolf predation on elk populations (Lolo & Sawtooth zones)

<sup>b</sup> – estimating statewide population abundance, breeding pairs, pack distribution, home range, emigration, immigration, and genetic linkage

<sup>c</sup> – executive & bureau staff working on wolf issues (e.g. Commission meetings, Legislative hearings, agency coordination)

<sup>d</sup> – enforcing state laws relative to wolf management (e.g. illegal take investigations)

<sup>e</sup> – legal proceedings/activities and responding to public records requests; includes expenses billed by executive staff of the Attorney General’s Office

<sup>f</sup> – outreach and information dissemination (e.g. “You Tube” videos, news releases)

<sup>g</sup> – implementing the FY10 regulated hunt (e.g. rules brochure, harvest report call in line)

<sup>h</sup> – investigating and responding to wolf depredations on livestock (no compensation)

<sup>i</sup> – approximately \$100,000 in license funds was used as match for PR funds

**Meeting Date:** November 18, 2010

**Agenda Item No. 19**

**Agenda Item: 19**

**Bureau Chief Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Lance Hebdon and Virgil Moore

**Background:** At the November 2009 joint meeting between the Commission and the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board (IOGLB) staff from both agencies gave information relative to the temporary moratorium on outfitting for Waterfowl and Turkey Hunting (IOGLB Policy 2027). It was recognized that due to the increased interest in these activities and due to Idaho's administrative decision making requirement in state law, a more comprehensive approach was needed so IOGLB can appropriately address these matters.

In March the Department and IOGLB established an advisory group with representatives from sportsman's groups, landowners and outfitters to evaluate the issue of how can Idaho allow, or not allow, additional guiding and outfitting for waterfowl and/or turkey on private and/or public lands, while protecting and maintaining private property rights?

The Advisory Group has met 4 times and will meet again if necessary. Staff will report progress.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:**

**Public Involvement Process:**

None at this time. Recommendations from the advisory board will be available at the Commission's January meeting for discussion of options for public review.

**Staff Recommendation:**

**Justification:**

**Meeting Date:** October 27, 2010

**Agenda Item No. 22**

**Agenda Item:** Grizzly Bear Update

**Bureau Chief Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Jim Unsworth

**Background:**

In March 2007, grizzlies in the Yellowstone ecosystem were removed from the endangered species list. On September 21, 2009, the Yellowstone grizzly bear population was relisted as a threatened population under the Endangered Species Act. All grizzly bears are currently under federal protection in Idaho. The Commission has developed a Position Statement on Yellowstone Grizzly Bears. A final position statement is attached for review.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:**

The grizzly bear population has increased in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and bears are venturing outside the Primary Conservation Area.

**Public Involvement Process:**

Public hearing opportunities were available prior to regular Commission meetings.

**Justification:**

Information will aid Commissioners as they respond to requests, clarifications, or recommendations from the public.

**Action Requested:**

Approval.