

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting
February 10, 2011
Boise, Idaho**

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

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

LEGISLATION

Sharon Kiefer, Assistant Director-Policy, updated the Commission on the following legislative matters (Appendix 44, Exhibit 24)

Fish and Game Sponsored Bill/Analysis/Discussion

HB85 has had a print hearing and bill introduction giving Commission authority to create a mentored hunt program.

RS19980C2 Special Auction Tag Proposal

The Department has not requested a print hearing due to the fact that there is another legislative proposal on the same subject matter. The Department was hoping to collaborate on a single bill with the other sponsor. The Department has not formally seen a copy of the other bill; it appears there are still elements of the bill that would fall outside the bounds of Commission policy direction. Commissioners discussed options regarding the Department proposal and problems that would arise in having two bills with similar subject matter and to have a competing bill.

11-12 Commissioner Budge moved and Commissioner Power seconded a motion to withdraw Department sponsored legislation RS19980C2. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Other Legislative Activity

Discussion Joint Hearing about off-road vehicle travel issues, February 7, 2011

Ms. Kiefer reported that the Joint Committee OHV Hearing regarding travel issues went well and felt it was a successful balanced hearing. The hearing was centered on SB1015 and SB1016 and other general testimony about the Department Motorized Vehicle Rule for hunters. Commissioner Budge represented the Commission well with his testimony.

Commissioner Budge stated that the Department OHV Rule needs to be reviewed both as the practice and function and enforceability, and understandability of those that need to deal with the rule. Commissioner Budge suggests a Commission workshop to determine if there is a simpler or concise way to address the rule to deal with some of the problems the Commission has encountered.

There is a perception that the Department and Commission are the ones who are closing roads in regards to the Forest Service Travel plans. Director Groen stated that the Department does have input when the Forest Service is putting together travel plans. The Department makes recommendations and sometimes people see this as the Department is closing down roads. There are two issues the North Idaho Forest Service Plans and Southern Idaho, the Commission OHV Rule; there is confusion with both. The Department is working with the Forest Service and OHV groups to try and resolve the road closures issues. The answer is to have good trails and good loops.

Ms. Kiefer explained that any of the travel planning recommendations particularly when they deal with specific trails always have a specific wildlife technical underpinning. You would not see a recommendation just as a recommendation; that recommendation would be tied to a specific biological objective or need relative to wildlife. The Commission will discuss Commission involvement regarding recommendation requests at the workshop.

Ms. Kiefer reported that a well received presentation was made to the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee. Topics in the presentation covered private public programs and the collaborations between the department and the agricultural producers.

New Bill Analysis/Discussion

SCR 101

Information only

AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES - Stating findings of the Legislature expressing that the state of Idaho and its citizens are concerned with the threat of aquatic nuisance species and will collectively strive to educate and prevent the contamination of Idaho's public lakes, streams, rivers and creeks, and encourage industry and recreationists around the world to be aware that Idaho takes the responsibility to protect and preserve its natural resources very seriously. The Department will monitor.

Reviewed Bill Tracking Tables (status of bills)

Ms.Kiefer reviewed the bill tracking tables (see exhibit).

Information only, the Department will monitor and update the Commission.

HB111 Amends and adds to existing law relating to peace officers to provide for enforcement of state law by law enforcement officers of federally recognized Indian tribes within the state and the requirements therefore; and to revise a definition.

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MISCELLANEOUS

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Wayne Wright, M.D.
Chairman

Virgil Moore
Secretary