

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting
February 24, 2011
Boise, Idaho**

Present in the Director's Office: 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; Mary Boyer, Executive Assistant; Jon Rachael, State Wildlife Manager; Mike Keckler, Chief, Communications; and Jon Heggen, Chief, Enforcement.

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, and Power participating. Commissioners Wheeler and Budge were excused.

MISCELLANEOUS

Consent Calendar

Items included in the consent calendar:

Minutes November 17-18 and December 8, 2010

11-19 Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Power seconded a motion to accept the minutes listed in the consent calendar. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

LEGISLATION

Sharon Kiefer, Assistant Director-Policy, updated the Commission on the following legislative matters (Appendix 44, Exhibit 26)

Fish and Game Sponsored Bill/Analysis/Discussion

House Bill 85 authorizing the commission to implement a mentored hunt program had a bill hearing in the House Resources and Conservation Committee last week. It was a close committee vote 8-7 with an affirmative vote to send the bill to the House floor with a do pass. Representative Hagedorn is the legislative sponsor for the floor debate on the bill.

New Bill Analysis/discussion

HB 170 would amend Section 73-122, Idaho Code, to delete the requirement that the social security number be recorded for any applicant for a recreational license. Requirement for SSN would be retained for applicants for professional or occupational licenses.

IDFG does not use SSN as an identifier in our license database, instead we use a unique sportsman's number. However, removal of the requirement that applicants supply social security numbers when applying for recreational licenses would detrimentally impact important child support enforcement functions. Staff believes there may be significant resource effects as an outcome of possible fiscal effects from non-compliance with the federal Social Security Act. Staff is pursuing contact with the bill sponsor to inform him of potential consequences, there may be similar contact from Health and Welfare about their concerns.

HB 186 amends subsection (4) of I.C. 36-1101 to make it illegal to use any aircraft as an aid to hunting for taking game or for loading or transporting hunters, game or hunting gear in any manner at a non-established airstrip. The prohibition specifies that the take of any game from the ground on the same calendar day of landing on the ground is unlawful except when such use (i.e. taking game, loading or transporting or unloading hunters, game or gear) occurs at an established airstrip. Staff will meet with Representative Moyle to discuss before the Commission takes a position.

HCR 11 Fish and Game rule rejection regarding prohibition of hunting upland game birds from watercraft. HCR 11 has passed and has been adopted by the full House, it will be sent to the Senate Resources Committee for review. This is a procedural manner.

SCR105 is a legislative message urging abandonment of the Secretary of Interior "Wildlands" policy (Secretarial Order 3310). This is a legislative statement and has passed the Senate.

Review of bill tracking tables please see exhibit for status of bills.

Other Legislative Activity

JFAC will be taking up the Department Budget bill on February 28th.

The Department has not been informed of a bill hearing yet for SB1015 and SB1016.

Kathleen Trever, Deputy Attorney General reported that the U.S. House of Representatives on February 19th passed the Continuing Resolution which allows for funding of the federal government. This is the House Resolution that has the provision which would require FWS to republish the 2009 wolf delisting rule that affects wolves in Idaho and Montana. The Department will follow this process.

Commission Meeting Housekeeping Discussion

The Commission discussed logistics relative to the May meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

Wayne Wright, M.D.
Chairman

Virgil Moore
Secretary