

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Annual Meeting January 25-27, 2012
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Trophy Room & Other Locations as Stated
600 South Walnut
Boise, Idaho**

January 25

LEGISLATION

Chairman McDermott called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m. Commissioners attended a meeting with the House Resources and Conservation Committee at the statehouse.

RULES

Public Meeting

Chairman McDermott called the public meeting to order at 7:00 pm, followed by introduction of the Commissioners, Director, and IDFG staff in attendance. The Chairman made opening remarks regarding the purpose of Fish and Game, and the conduct of the public meeting. Staff will be available after the meeting to answer questions.

Chairman McDermott reported that the Commission is making progress in tackling the tough challenge of reducing Idaho's wolf population. The Commission is using four strategies for controlling the wolf population. Two are licensed hunting and licensed trapping. The state also uses USDA Wildlife Services to control depredations on livestock and domestic animals. The Department authorizes agency control actions if they are needed to address public safety threats or to address predation in those areas where elk and other ungulate populations are struggling, such as the Lolo Zone. We will remain focused on getting and keeping the wolf population in Idaho under control.

Chairman McDermott introduced Representatives Bert Stevenson, Marcus Gibbs and Donna Pence. Director Moore introduced Byron Johnson, Retired Idaho Supreme Court Justice. Mr. Johnson's father was Commissioner Arlie Johnson, serving from 1955-1969.

Chairman McDermott noted that written comment was received from Christine Gertschen, Jim Hagedorn, Idaho Wildlife Federation, and Ada County Fish & Game League and would be added to the written record (Appendix 45, Exhibit 1).

Ken Miracle suggested that the Commission put together an ongoing biologically sound planning framework similar to what Oregon has done for chukars and upland game. This long-range planning format would assist with season setting.

Patrick Carney representing Idaho Trappers Association (ITA) spoke regarding a proposal (Appendix 45, Exhibit 2) for a lion season in Owhyee County. The proposed season would run

concurrent with the bobcat season. ITA will work with Craig White on this proposal. ITA does not agree with the requirement to have a fur buyer's license to purchase furs. Mr. Carney asked if it would be possible for conservation officers to check in bobcats and otters at the hometown instead of the regional office. ITA would like to open all of the state to wolf trapping.

Rob Fraser representing Idaho Wildlife Federation stated that whatever good the Governor's Auction Tags may promise, the trouble with private bills is that they have no method for involving the public. IWF feels the public has not been made aware, or given the opportunity to weigh in on what is happening to their wildlife. Most sportsmen have not even heard of the Governor's Auction Tags. IWF believes public input at Commission Meetings around the state is needed to provide essential information to sportsmen and allow input on those decisions that affect them. IWF supports the constitutional right that wildlife belongs to the people. IWF opposes auctioning off our wildlife to the highest bidder without defined public benefit (Appendix 45, Exhibit 3).

Lloyd Oldenburg representing the Wild Sheep Foundation reported that if the Governor's Auction Tag becomes law any money that is derived from bighorn sheep should go back to the management of bighorn sheep not to be spent on Access Yes or any other program that is not connected to bighorn sheep. Wild Sheep Foundation states the same for mountain goats and moose. Please consider this as the position statement for Wild Sheep Foundation.

Alison Steen, President of Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association (IOGA) and representing Idaho Natural Resource Foundation, which is a new nonprofit organization. IOGA would like to encourage the Commission to set a chukar season that would better facilitate river use. Last year in the 2011 season there was a lot of lost opportunity for people to chukar hunt on guided white water trips and that means lost revenue for out-of-state clients. She would like to see the wolf trapping in the Middle Fork Zone to be extended as in the Lolo Zone.

Ken Helfrich, representing Helfrich River Outfitters suggests that the Commission re-establish the September 15th chukar season.

Karl DeHart representing Upland Idaho.com stated that there are a lot of members that would like to see the chukar season return to the third week of September and an 8 bird limit.

Marty Morache, Board Member of the Ada County Fish & Game League commented on the Department recommendation to close fall turkey hunting in Region 3 (Appendix 45, Exhibit 4).

John Caywood, representing Ada County Fish & Game League, stated that the League has concerns (Appendix 45, Exhibit 5) with Governor's Auction Tag SB1256. Ada County Fish & Game League recommends that this idea should be remanded to the IDFG Commission, drop the Sheep and goat tags, and investigate alternative revenue increases.

Steve Burson operates an outfitting company in the Selway Unit 17 area. He appreciates the tools the Commission has allowed outfitters to use for wolf management and trapping. Mr. Burson would like the Commission to look at the bear season regulations regarding the use of bait and

wolves. A number of outfitters have spent a lot of money for wolf control, and he suggests a program to work with the Department if possible to offset some of their costs.

Mike Koob commented regarding upland bird seasons. Mr. Koob feels that population management of chukar populations by hunters are not putting a dent in it. Increasing the season time as suggested by outfitters certainly will not hurt the population. His point is to use biological basis for establishing limits and season limits rather than other factors that come into play.

Danette Henderson commented regarding trapping in the Boise foothills. Ms. Henderson's dog was caught in a trap in the foothills. She would like to see the Fish and Game Commission direct the Department of Fish and Game to study/implement new trapping regulations in the Boise foothills.

Travis Bullock is an outfitter in the Middle Fork and spoke regarding wolf trapping. He would like to have a few more tags for trappers. Mr. Bullock suggests that some of the trails that are not being used should be opened up for trapping of wolves. Mr. Bullock supports the September 15 opening date for chukars.

Larry Szurgot asked the Commission to explain what the objectives were for changing the limits and season limits on the bird population. Mr. Szurgot feels it should be a biological reason.

Jon Carter spoke regarding chukar hunting. Mr. Carter stated that he was confused over the change in season and limits last year. He feels that decision was not based on biology and encourages the Commission to base decisions on biology.

Herb Meyer spoke regarding chukar hunting and has been a chukar hunter since 1977. Mr. Meyer supports the Department proposals for chukar hunting. He supports comments made by Lloyd Oldenberg and a proposal from ITA on lion trapping in Owhyee County.

Burk Mantel commented on trapping regulations, upland game limits and seasons and the Governor's Auction Tag bill. Mr. Mantel stated that Idaho needs more restrictions on bear and snare traps. He supports putting the upland bird levels back to 8 and a September 15 opening date. He is opposed to the auction tag legislation; there are better ways to raise money for the Department.

Mike Ingram, Idaho Trappers Association, spoke regarding ITA proposal for a fisher trapping season. He would like the Commission to consider the proposal.

Mike Gann spoke regarding the purchase of Hammer Flat. He would like to know the purpose of the purchase and the funding source. Mr. Gann commented on the reduction of big game aerial surveys, controlled hunt drawings and wolf harvest data. See written comments (Appendix 45, Exhibit 6).

Drew Wahlin, President, Idaho Chukar Foundation spoke regarding upland game bird regulations. Mr. Wahlin would like to see the implementation of long-term upland bird hunting regulation policy similar to what the State of Oregon has.

Kelsey Helfrich is a fourth-generation guide and hunter in Idaho. Ms. Helfrich would like to see the chukar hunting season opener changed back to the September date. The change in the opening date eliminated their floating and hunting business. She feels this change was not based on biological research and should be changed back.

Commissioner Power distributed a proposal regarding wild turkey re-introduction in Lemhi County from Christopher Tambe and Mike Overacker.

Darl Allred has been an outfitter for 37 years and commented regarding the Sawtooth Zone trapping and extended season to meet quotas. He is ready to assist the Department in wolf removal.

Jim Nunley, Idaho Wildlife Federation, supports IWF's presentation on Governor's auction tags. He does not feel it is the best option for IDFG or the public.

January 26

MISCELLANEOUS

Chairman McDermott called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. with all Commissioners present.

Posting of the Colors and Pledge of Allegiance

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game Honor Guard presented the colors. Members presenting: Nathan Stohosky, Brian Flatter and Dan Kelsey.

Review of Public Comment

Public comment from the January 25 hearing was reviewed. The Commission discussion addressed comments relating to upland game bird seasons, trappers and trapping, dogs relative to traps in the foothills. Staff will work with trappers and the public to see how we can address this issue. There is a need for an understandable 5-year chukar plan. The Wildlife Bureau will address comments relative to wolves from the outfitting community to have more flexibility to work with the Department on control actions, particularly in the back country or near back country areas. Director Moore stated there are options for the Department to move forward with more of this in the coming years. The outfitting community is a good partner as they gain the knowledge and experience to assist the Department with a lower cost option. The fall turkey hunting will be addressed in agenda item number 14.

Consent Calendar

The consent calendar included the following items:

- Minutes November 9-10, 2011
- Financial Report
- Appointments for the Winter Feeding Advisory Committee

12-01 Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Power seconded a motion **to accept the items listed in the consent calendar.** All Commissioners voted in favor.

Shikar-Safari Award Presentation

Jon Heggen reported that the Shikar-Safari Club International annually honors an outstanding “Wildlife Officer of the Year” in each state and province. The nominee is recognized for their “outstanding job in the enforcement of game laws, the protection of wildlife, and the implementation of conservation programs.” In addition to the recognition through a plaque and commemorative plate, the officer also receives a \$20,000 insurance policy in the event of death in the line of duty.

The Shikar-Safari Club International and its Foundation are partners in conservation through funding big horn sheep research and transplants in Idaho, funding a DNA sequencer for the Wildlife and Forensics lab, and most recently providing a grant for the IDFG K-9 program.

Jon Heggen presented the Shikar-Safari Officer of the Year Award to District Conservation Officer Marc Arms.

REPORTS

Update on Spring / Summer Chinook Salmon forecast and Potential for Sport Fisheries in 2012

Ed Schriever provided an update (Appendix 45, Exhibit 7) to the Commission of the forecasts for spring and summer Chinook salmon returning to the Snake River and potential salmon seasons. These salmon will begin leaving the ocean and entering the Columbia River in late February and early March. Fisheries staff proposes to return to the Commission in March with recommendations for 2012 Chinook salmon sport fisheries to be conducted in the Clearwater River, Salmon River and Snake River drainages. During January and February Fisheries staff will be involved in Columbia River basin processes that set spring Chinook fishing seasons on the Columbia River. Those season-setting processes and the potential impacts of Columbia River fisheries on Idaho-bound salmon will be described.

Wolf Management Update and Review of Hunting and Trapping Seasons

Jon Rachael, State Wildlife Manager provided an update (Appendix 45, Exhibit 8).

- Wolf hunting seasons opened on August 30 throughout the state.
- 34,599 wolf hunting tags sold for 2011 (compared to 26,428 for the 2009 season).
- 6,295 wolf hunting tags sold for 2012.

- 5,959 Resident tags; 336 Nonresident tags.
- Through January 20, 2012, 195 wolves have been taken by hunters.
- Wolf trapping season November 15-March 31 in the Lolo, Selway, and Middle Fork wolf management zones and portions of the Panhandle and Dworshak-Elk City wolf management zones except Unit 10A.
- Trappers must first attend a wolf trapper education class before buying wolf trapping tags.
- Certified trappers may purchase up to 3 wolf trapping tags per trapping season.
- To date 604 individuals have been certified to trap wolves.
- 405 wolf trapping tags sold through January 22, 2012.
- 55 wolves have been taken by trappers through January 20, 2012.
- Regional supervisors are authorized to initiate wolf control to address conflicts with livestock, domestic animals, and public safety.
- Continued aggressive response through authorizing Wildlife Services and kill permits to livestock owners to kill wolves to address areas with chronic depredations on livestock.
- Public trapping is proving to be an effective management tool for increasing wolf harvest.
- 12 harvested wolves were wearing radio collars. One additional radio collared wolf was harvested in Montana.
- Wolf/Ungulate Research project capture is planned for February to mark additional elk and moose in the Lolo and Sawtooth zone research areas.
- IDFG and Nez Perce Tribe staff working hard to finish up year-end counts and prepare the annual report for the USFWS.

12-02 Commissioner Trevey moved and Commissioner Anderson seconded a motion **to extend the trapping season to Unit 10A effective February 1-March 31, 2012**. All Commissioners voted in favor.

LEGISLATION

Senator Siddoway provided the Commission a draft copy of proposed legislation regarding wolves to Commissioner Anderson (Appendix 45, Exhibit 9).

REPORTS

Deer and Elk Status Update

Jon Rachael, State Wildlife Manager, provided a statewide overview of the status of deer and elk populations in relation to deer Population Management Unit objectives and elk zone objectives. (Appendix 45, Exhibit 10).

Director's Annual Report to the Commission

Director Moore presented the *Director's Annual Report to the Commission* (Appendix 45, Exhibit 11) showing Department financial summaries for FY10 and an overview of major Department programs.

JFAC Budget Preview

On Tuesday, January 31 the Department will present the Governor's Fiscal Year 2013 budget for IDFG to the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC). The Director provided the Commission with a preview of his planned presentation to JFAC for their information and input. This presentation focused upon the role of the Commission in setting key policy direction and the actions of the Department to carry our Commission policy.

Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation Report (IFWF)

Ann Dehner, Foundation Development Coordinator, presented the IFWF report to the Commission. Ms. Dehner introduced IFWF board member Jim Wrigley.

- The Foundation has begun a new fiscal year this month. Its operating budget was approved at the Board's meeting on December 3, 2011.
- The Foundation is working with the Department on the transfer of the Spirit Lake property and anticipates completing the transfer within the next few weeks.
- At its December board meeting, the Foundation granted project funding for six projects from the Department and other nonprofit organizations totaling \$30,000. The projects include: Enhancement of the MK Nature Center Streamwalk Window; Watchable Wildlife's Idaho Nature Backpack Project; The Idaho Wildlife Federation's signage for the Kirkwood Historic Ranch Bighorn Sheep Display; Trout Unlimited's Pebble Creek Restoration Project; the Teton Regional Land Trust's Teton River Riparian Restoration; and an implementation project for the WaterLife Discovery Center.
- The Foundation is nearing completion of a redesign of its Website. Plans are to launch the new Website by the end of January.
- The Foundation continues to work internally to clarify its service capabilities and relationship with the Department. This review includes looking at the 2006 MOU between the Foundation, Department and the Commission and the Foundation's capacities for greater self-sufficiency, fundraising, and other avenues that further define its partnership with IDFG and the Commission.

- As part of its marketing of the Wildlife license plates, the Foundation is the title sponsor of the upcoming “Mutual of Omaha’s Wild Kingdom” that will be held at the Morrison Center on the campus of Boise State University in April. There are special ticket prices on a limited basis for employees of the Department of Fish and Game.
- It is expected that the Foundation will announce its 2012 grant opportunities in February, 2012, with the next round of applications due by June 1.

Selection of Fish and Game Commission Liaison to IFWF

Sharon Kiefer requested a Commission decision regarding a liaison to the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Foundation) for 2012. The 2011 liaison was Commissioner Wayne Wright. The 2006 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Commission, Department, and the Foundation calls for the Commission to designate a Commissioner to attend all Foundation meetings as a liaison between the Foundation and the Commission.

12-03 Commissioner Trevey moved and Commissioner Budge seconded a motion **to appoint Commissioner Bob Barowsky as Commission liaison for the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation.** All Commissioners voted in favor.

RULES

Motorized Hunting Rule Scoping Update

Sharon Kiefer reported that at the November meeting, the Commission directed staff to scope a revision of the Motorized Hunting Rule and incorporate changes directed by the Commission after consideration of staff recommendations.

Staff is working on development of a survey including a random sample of both hunting license holders from the Fish and Game database and registered OHV users from the Department of Parks and Recreation database. This was a commitment to motorized user groups to get input from a broader group of motorized users.

LEGISLATION

Legislation

12-04 Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Wright seconded a motion **to amend the agenda to add a presentation by Senator Brackett regarding a legislative RS allowing landowners to sell tags.** All Commissioners voted in favor.

Senator Brackett Proposal to the Commission

Senator Brackett (Appendix 45, Exhibit 12) presented his RS proposal allowing landowners to sell tags to the Commission. This legislative proposal is about sportsmen, landowners and access. Currently we have Access Yes where landowners get paid for access and Landowner Appreciation Permits where landowners receive tags. It is not required that they allow access. They cannot sell the tags, but are allowed to barter or trade the tags. Even with these programs sportsmen are losing access in Idaho. This proposal would allow landowners tags to be sold and that the landowner would have to allow access. Senator Brackett realizes the strong philosophical reasons or resistance to selling of tags. Senator Brackett stated that he would appreciate any input and could still make changes to the draft proposal.

Commissioner Wright is familiar with the landowner situation and it is a problem especially in Unit 47 and other units in the Magic Valley that are problematic. Idaho is losing access because of private lands especially in the Magic Valley Region.

Senate Bill 1256

SB 1256 -- SPECIAL BIG GAME AUCTION TAGS - Amends existing law relating to fish and game to provide for special big game auction tags designated as Governor's wildlife partnership tags.

12-05 Commissioner Budge moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a motion **to amend the agenda to add a presentation on SB 1256 the Governor's Auction Tag.** All Commissioners voted in favor.

John Watts and Doug Sayer presented information on Senate Bill 1256 to the Commission. A one page summary of SB1256 was distributed (Appendix 45, Exhibit 13). Mr. Watts stated that he has met with many legislators, sportsmen and the Commission and would like to move forward with this legislation. Mr. Sayer stated that the intent is to provide the Department a tool to address revenue issues in the future.

Chairman McDermott stated that the opposition heard at the public meeting regarding SB1256 was the lack of scoping and the philosophy of selling the states most desired tags.

RULES

Season Setting: Upland Game and Furbearers

Craig White presented the Department recommendations for the furbearer seasons (Appendix 45, Exhibit 14). Mr. White reported that the Department has seen an increase in the number of trappers due to the trapping season for wolves. The average number is 1200 trappers per year. Most of the trapping licenses are purchased by residents. A total of 31,811 animals were harvested for 2010-2011 and a total of 19,586 pelts sold for \$416,600.

A statewide press release was issued on these proposed seasons. Regions provided the public with opportunities to comment on Department-proposed changes, and the Department website had a questionnaire asking for public input on the proposed changes to upland game rules.

Seasons are designed to manage Idaho's upland game and furbearer resources for maximum hunting and trapping opportunity while considering biological and sociological implications.

Mr. White referenced the Idaho Trappers Association's request for a fisher season. The Department recognizes that there may be an opportunity to provide a limited conservative harvest of fishers in the future but there are some key points for the Department to consider and a public input process for the Department to follow before we can recommend a season to the Commission (Appendix 45, Exhibit 15).

Jeff Knetter, Upland Game and Waterfowl Staff Biologist, presented the Department recommendations for Upland Game. Recommendations include: 1) Increase the possession limit from two times the daily bag limit to three times the daily bag limit; 2) Return the chukar/gray partridge & quail season openers to the third Saturday in September; 3) Return the daily bag limit for chukar/gray partridge to eight; 4) Reduce general fall turkey hunting opportunity in the Southwest and Southeast Regions; 5) Begin the cottontail rabbit/snowshoe hare season August 30 Statewide, and no changes to all other seasons.

12-06 Commissioner Power moved and Commissioner Anderson seconded a motion **to accept the staff recommendation for upland game, furbearers and turkey**. All Commissioners voted in favor.

Upland Game Motor Vehicle Rule

Deputy Attorney General Dallas Burkhalter stated that Motor Vehicle Rule (MVR) was put in to the upland game bird rules and is the identical wording that is in the big game rules. The rule says that the Commission will designate the hunts or units to which the restriction applies and identify those designations in the proclamation. To date the upland game bird proclamation has not been showing the designation other than referring hunters to the big game proclamation. The Department is looking for more specific designation to put in the upland game bird proclamation.

12-07 Commissioner Budge moved and Commissioner Anderson seconded a motion **to not apply the Motor Vehicle Rule restrictions to any upland game season**. All Commissioners voted in favor.

Commissioner Budge stated that the rationale to not apply the MVR to any upland game season is to keep the MVR purpose true and clear, which is to protect vulnerability on big game.

LEGISLATION

Legislative Update

Sharon Kiefer provided a legislative update (Appendix 45, Exhibit 16) to the Commission. Ms. Kiefer reported that Senator Pearce has scheduled a Winter Feeding Program hearing in the Senate Resources and Environment Committee on February 3rd. The Department will provide a presentation on the Winter Feeding Program and implementation.

Rule Review: The rule docket that would modify the LAP Program to create the landowner incentive tags was rejected by the Senate Resources & Environment Committee. We are waiting to hear on a vote from the House Resource and Conservation Committee.

We are expecting the Fish and Game legislation proposals, which are in RS format now, to have a bill print hearing in House Resources and Conservation Committee on February 1st.

Ms. Kiefer referenced Senator Siddoway's proposal that he shared with the Commission. She noted that it does not have an RS number on it. The Department has provided some feedback to the Senate regarding some of the proposed activities in that legislation. The Department will continue to provide technical advice to Senator Siddoway regarding the proposal.

Senate Bill 1256

Senate Bill 1256 creates additional special wildlife auction tags, prescribes disposition and restrictions of use of the proceeds, and also prescribes new restrictions for use of the proceeds for the current bighorn sheep tag. This bill is significantly different from legislation reviewed last year. In Senate Bill 1256, the Commission retains the authority to prescribe the manner in which the tags shall be used and validated.

The Department's Action recommendation is to monitor, answer questions and testify about SB 1256 because it affects Title 36 and the controlled hunt program.

Many Commissioners are hearing from their constituents that they do not support SB 1256.

The Commission consensus is not to take a Commission position today on SB 1256.

Senate Bill 1239

The purpose of this legislation is create a new section under Chapter 11, Title 36 that would require trappers to check traps within every thirty-six (36) hours and remove any catch. The rule also exempts trappers acting under the authority of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services.

This new statutory provision would apply to trapping for furbearing animals; we interpret this reference to be the classified furbearing animals defined in IDAPA 13.01.06.104. With this interpretation, the 36-hour trap check would not apply to wolves, which are big game animals.

The Idaho Trappers Association and trappers in general have stated to the Department that a trap check of less than 72 hours (3 days) would be a financial hardship to trappers. Trapping licenses currently bring in approximately \$32,000 annually in revenue. Some portion of this would be lost, because some trappers would probably discontinue their activity.

House Bill 404

The purpose of this legislation is to amend Chapter 16, Title 37, Idaho Code by adding section 67-1613 to prohibit camping on capitol mall properties and other state facilities and defines “camping” in that context.

The bill is clear that the camping prohibitions shall not apply or affect policies, rules, statutes or leases on Department of Fish and Game lands.

LANDS

Land Acquisitions

Gregg Servheen, Wildlife Program Coordinator, presented the following land acquisition proposals to the Commission for approval.

Spirit Lake

The Department proposed the acquisition of a 1.82-acre parcel adjacent to Department ownership on Spirit Lake, Idaho, for the purpose of improving a public access boating site. The Department owns and administers the only developed boat launch on Spirit Lake. The existing facility is not large enough to accommodate current public use levels.

In 2006, the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation purchased this property and the Commission approved the Department to lease the property from the Foundation over a five-year period. Based on the terms of the lease, the Department has compensated the Foundation the agreed amount of \$ 224,417.64 and is now prepared to exercise the option to purchase the property.

This was a proposal presented to the Commission during Executive Session on November 6, 2006.

Stimson

This proposed donation of 12.24 acres from the Stimson Lumber Company would be easily incorporated into the Coeur d’Alene River Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The WMA is currently about 5,750 acres in size and composed of parcels extending approximately 20 miles along the Lower Coeur d’Alene River Valley from the town of Harrison to Cataldo. The Department has spent the last 40+ years expanding and consolidating this ownership.

The parcel at issue is composed primarily of wetlands and scrub/shrub habitat with a small upland component. While small, the parcel provides both valuable waterfowl breeding habitat and a desirable migration rest point. In addition to waterfowl, the property is frequented by ruffed grouse, wild turkeys, and white-tailed deer. Moose and elk are less common inhabitants. Nongame species are abundant and diverse given the mix of wetland, scrub/shrub, and upland habitat.

No buildings are part of the acquisition. The Department pays a fee in lieu of taxes (FILT) for all fee-title properties. The FILT for properties acquired in Kootenai County is estimated at approximately \$2.24 per acre, for a total of approximately \$27.42 for the subject property.

The property was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session on January 27, 2010.

12-08 Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Power seconded a motion **to accept the land acquisitions as briefed by staff.** All Commissioners voted in favor.

Summary of Land Acquisition Policy Implementation

Gregg Servheen, Wildlife Program Coordinator, presented a summary (Appendix 45, Exhibit 17) of implementation of the land acquisition policy over the last 10 years. The summary provided information on the number of acquisitions, times to implement projects, and a breakdown summary of projects by region, acres, and value.

REPORT

Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) Mid Winter Meeting Report

Chairman McDermott provided a brief report on the WAFWA mid-winter meeting January 6-8, 2012.

Director's Report

Director Moore reported that Jim Lau, Administration Chief has retired. The Department is proceeding with the hiring process for the selection of a new chief of administration. Director Moore will work with Nate Fisher, OSC, on a sage-grouse task force in coordination with the Governor's office.

Commission Report

Commissioners Budge, Power, Barowsky, Trevey, Anderson, Wright and McDermott stated they would stand on their Commissioner reports (Appendix 45, Exhibit 18.) as written.

MISCELLANEOUS

Executive Session

12- 09 Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Wright seconded a motion **that the Commission go into executive session pursuant to subsections c and f of Idaho Code Section 67-2345 to discuss land acquisition, and pending legal issues.** Roll call vote: Ayes: McDermott, Trevey, Barowsky, Wright, Anderson, Budge and Power. Nays (none).

The Commission discussed potential land acquisitions and pending litigation.

Commissioner Budge asked to be recused from the discussion regarding land acquisitions due to a conflict of interest.

The Commission came out of executive session at 6:35 p.m. with no final action being taken.

Chairman McDermott reported the Friday meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

January 27

MISCELLANEOUS

Chairman McDermott called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Commissioner Budge was excused.

Workshop on Fish and Wildlife Management Planning

The Commissioners had an informal discussion regarding trapping. The Department will work with the Region 3 staff to put together a small group of individuals to deal with metropolitan trapping to reduce conflict.

Jeff Gould provided the Commission with information regarding wolf-related expenditures for FY10 and FY11 (Appendix 45, Exhibit 19). IDFG expenditures exceeded \$1.2 million for wolf-related activities during FY11, compared with \$1.7 in FY10. Expenditures during FY11 were down \$0.5 million from FY10, reflecting reduced management obligations when Governor Otter returned designated management authority to the USFW on October 18, 2010 after wolves were relisted on August 5, 2010. The Department ceased monitoring and enforcement activities associated with wolf management until wolves were delisted and returned to state management authority on May 5, 2011, at which time the Department reinitiated wolf management efforts.

A Predation Management Plan for the Lolo and Selway Elk Zones was distributed to the Commissioners (Appendix 45, Exhibit 20).

Jeff Dillon provided a brief overview of the 2013-2018 Fisheries Management Plan (Appendix 45, Exhibit 21).

LEGISLATION

Commissioners met with the Senate Resources & Environment Committee. The meeting agenda included confirmation hearings for Commissioners Fred Trevey and Kenny Anderson.

MISCELLANEOUS

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.