

Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting
March 29, 2012
Boise, Idaho

Present in the Director's Office: Director Moore, Deputy Director Sharon Kiefer, Dallas Burkhalter, Kathleen Trever, Deputy Attorney Generals; Mary Boyer, Executive Assistant; Mike Keckler, Communications Chief; Niels Nokkentved.

Nancy Kasner, Administrative Assistant and Becky Kramer from the Spokesman Review from the Panhandle Region participated on the call.

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

Chairman McDermott called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and stated that the purpose of the meeting is to consider modifying application of motorized hunting rule to the 2012/2013 wolf hunts.

RULES

Application of Motorized Hunting Rule to 2012 -2013 Wolf Seasons

Jon Rachael presented the staff recommendations.

The use of motorized vehicles by hunters as an aid to hunting big game is restricted in certain areas (IDAPA 13.01.08.411). This use restriction is in addition to all federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations, ordinances and orders. Hunters must comply with all motorized vehicle limits or prohibitions instituted by the landowner or land manager. Also, this use restriction rule is not an exception from, and is in addition to, the statutory prohibition against hunting from or by the use of any motorized vehicle set forth in Section 36-1101(b)(1), Idaho Code. In designated areas and hunts, hunters may only use motorized vehicles on established roadways which are open to motorized traffic and capable of being traveled by full-sized automobiles. Any other use by hunters is prohibited. This motorized vehicle use restriction shall apply to identified areas and hunts in all Big Game Management Units. The hunts and areas with a motorized vehicle use restriction are identified in the Commission's Big Game Season Proclamation.

Idaho Code 36-104 grants authority to the Commission to promulgate biological and nonbiological rules. The Commission sets big game seasons by proclamation at their scheduled March meeting each year. Idaho Code 67-52 (Idaho Administrative Procedure Act) governs the process for considering, adopting, and implementing rules.

Motorized hunting rules and wolf seasons were scoped via the Department website, at regional meetings, and/or with affected stakeholder groups. Motorized hunting rules were also discussed and considered during the legislative session which included multiple public hearings.

Wolf seasons were set by the Commission on March 22. Wolf seasons occur in 30 game management units with motorized vehicle use restrictions as specified in the big game seasons proclamation. The Commission did not specifically address their intent on how the motorized hunting rule would apply to wolf seasons. Four options have been identified:

1. Motorized hunting rule would not apply to wolf hunting. This option would likely create conflict and an enforcement difficulty if motorized vehicle use was restricted for other big game hunters but not for wolf hunters.
2. Motorized hunting rule would apply for the entire duration of the wolf hunting season.
3. Motorized hunting rule would apply to wolf seasons only during the period of time deer, elk, or pronghorn seasons are open. This would result in a complex series of dates when the rule would apply because of the varying season dates in those units in which the motorized hunting rule applies.
4. Motorized hunting rule would apply to wolf seasons only from August 30 – December 31, 2012, but would not apply during the 2013 portion of the season. This would provide a uniform date for all units, would be easy to communicate to sportsmen, and would be consistent with the way the motorized hunting rule has been applied to mountain lion seasons since 2003.

Staff recommendation: Staff recommends the motorized hunting rule apply to wolf seasons from August 30 – December 31, 2012, but would not apply to the 2013 portion of the 2012-2013 season.

12-37 Commissioner Power moved Commissioner Budge seconded a motion to accept the staff recommendation. All Commissioners voted in favor.

MISCELLANEOUS

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Randall C. Budge
Chairman

Virgil Moore
Secretary