

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission  
November 13-14, 2013  
Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
Magic Valley Region  
Jerome, Idaho**

**November 13**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Commission Field Tour**

Commissioners Brad Corkill, Fred Trevey, Bob Barowsky, Mark Doerr, Randy Budge and Will Naillon participated on a field tour of the Rock Creek Property.

**WORKSHOP**

**Conservation Law Enforcement Workshop**

An informational workshop covering a variety of topics concerning conservation law enforcement was given. Included was a report on increasing awareness for Citizens Against Poaching (CAP).

Officers and topics:

Jon Heggen, Chief, Enforcement

Jim Stirling, IDFG Canine Program

Doug Meyer, Increasing Awareness of the CAP Program in the Magic Valley

Josh Royse, Effects of Wrong Class License Purchases and their Investigations

Barry Cummings, The Effects of Unlawful Baiting for Big Game

George Fischer, Recruiting Youth to Hunting

Eric Crawford, Artificial Simulated Animal Program and their use

Josh Royse, South Hills Mule Deer Case Study

Mark Hill, Poaching and the Cumulative Impacts of Wildlife Violations

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Public Hearing**

Chairman Barowsky called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and introduced Commissioners Brad Corkill, Fred Trevey, Mark Doerr, and Will Naillon. Commissioner Kenny Anderson was excused. Director Moore introduced Department staff and noted that they would be available after the meeting to answer questions.

Chairman Barowsky thanked the public for their attendance and noted that their input is an important part of the meeting process and that comments received would be reviewed on Thursday during the regular meeting.

The following individuals provided public comments: Herb Meyer, Walter Bradshaw, Darr Moon, Brad Bandy, Bob Barton, Will Buhler, Byrd Golay, Jeff Schroeder, Jack Nelsen, Richard Jardin, Jack Oyler, Fred Surbaugh, Brett Dixon, Tree Top Ranches, Scott Allan, SFW and Aaron Swift, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Written comment was received from Paul Waldon regarding Outfitting for Turkey and Waterfowl.

Testimony topics included outfitting for turkey and waterfowl, wolf populations and disease, Landowner Appreciation Program, Henry's Lake and the decline in recent years with ice fishing, reduction of planted fish at Island Park, fish stocking and walleye fishing at Oakley Reservoir. White Clouds National Monument, predator control, elk hunt 36 B and Idaho Hunters Feeding the Hungry. Programs for youth pheasant hunts, one year anniversary for the constitutional amendment regarding the right to hunt and fish, habitat restoration and game management.

Chairman Barowsky welcomed former Commissioner Dr. Wayne Wright.

#### **November 14**

Chairman Barowsky called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Commissioners Brad Corkill, Fred Trevey, Mark Doerr, Randy Budge, and Will Naillon were present. Commissioner Kenney Anderson was excused.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **Review of Public Comment**

Public comment from the November 13 public hearing was reviewed and discussed by the Commission.

#### **WAFWA Pogue-Elms Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award**

Jon Heggen, Chief, Enforcement, presented the WAFWA Pogue-Elms Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award to Senior Conservation Officer Jim Stirling. Officer Stirling is the key player in developing a K9 program for Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Officer Stirling and his K9 Pepper have become an indispensable resource not only for Idaho's Conservation Officers, but for local law enforcement agencies as well. He routinely gets called out at all hours of the day and night to assist with searches for firearms evidence in murder cases, suicides, and other crimes. Officer Stirling and K9 Pepper responded to a search and rescue call in the wide open desert near the Nevada border, and were instrumental in locating a lost two-year-old boy just prior to dark. Officer Stirling is an asset to wildlife, and a hero of conservation law enforcement.

The award was created to honor Bill Pogue and Conley Elms, and all the wildlife law enforcement officers who gave the supreme sacrifice with their lives, the Pogue-Elms Award

was created and is now awarded through WAFWA's award committee and the law enforcement committee. This award is given on their behalf to a wildlife law enforcement officer who exemplifies the courage, dedication, sacrifice, and hard work in their pursuit and love for wildlife.

### **Agenda Changes**

A request was made by Commissioner Fred Trevey to add an agenda item regarding department technical comment policy. The item was added to the agenda as item #23 for discussion.

**13-65** Commissioner Trevey moved and Commissioner Barwosky seconded a motion to add a commission discussion on department technical comment policy direction from the November 9, 2011 meeting. All Commissioners voted in favor.

### **Consent Calendar**

The consent calendar included the following items:

- Minutes, July 10-11, August 19 and October 3, 2013
- Financial Report

**13-66** Commissioner Naillon moved and Commissioner Doerr seconded a motion to approve the items listed in the consent calendar. All Commissioners voted in favor.

## **REPORTS**

### **Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation Report**

Deputy Director Sharon Kiefer, provided the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation report.

At its August 2013 Board meeting, the Board awarded a total of \$25,000 in funds to the Department of Fish and Game and non-profit organizations for restoration, preservation and conservation education projects. Projects for the Department include:

- *Morrison Knudsen Nature Center for Roof Repair and Replacement*
- *Region 3 Eagle - Merrill Pond Access Improvement Project*
- *Region 6 - Moist Soil Management on Market Lake WMA*
- *Region 6 - Idaho Master Naturalists Habitat Improvement at Deer Parks WMU and Gem State WHA*
- *Region 6 - Idaho Master Naturalists Bear Aware Safety and Education*

At its August Board meeting, the Foundation's Board of Directors also approved the distribution of \$4,000 in funds to support the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual White-Nose Syndrome Symposium Workshop for North American biologists held in Boise.

The Foundation has welcomed Greg Gaddis as the newest member of its Board of Directors. Mr. Gaddis is employed with Thornton Oliver Keller based in Boise as an Office Brokerage

Specialist in office leasing and sales. A former fly-fishing guide, Mr. Gaddis has been active with many community organizations. He is still an avid fly-fisherman and also enjoys Idaho's hunting, skiing, mountain biking and trail running.

The next Board meeting of the Foundation will be December 6-8, 2013 in Boise.

### **Conservation Officer Survey Results**

Jon Heggen, Chief, Enforcement, reported that the Enforcement Bureau contracted with the University of Idaho, Social Sciences and Bioregional Planning Program, College of Natural Resources to conduct an opinion survey of license holder's attitudes towards conservation officers, and Idaho Fish and Game laws and regulations.

#### **Purpose:**

This research was initiated by a request from IDFG. The project has four objectives to determine:

1. License holder's attitudes towards conservation officers and their perceptions of the quality of service.
2. License holder's priorities for how conservation officers' duties and responsibilities should be prioritized.
3. License holder's attitudes towards public non-compliance with state fish and game laws and regulations.
4. License holder's perceptions and acceptance of the deterrents the state has in place to support fish and game conservation.

The survey was conducted by an undergraduate student for his senior thesis under the guidance of Nick Sanyal, Ph.D. Associate Professor, UI.

Nick Sanyal, Ph.D provided the survey results (Appendix 46, Exhibit 80) to the Commission. In January 2013, University of Idaho (UI) distributed the survey to a random sample of 1,600 IDFG 2012 fishing, hunting and trapping license holders. The sample was stratified by the 7 regions and non-residents. UI used a hybrid survey method.

The questionnaire was administered between January 15 and March 1, 2013. Initial results were presented to the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association in July 2013.

## **RULES**

### **Ratification of Rules**

Deputy Attorney Kathleen Trever presented five rule dockets for Commission approval. The rules will be forwarded to the Legislature for review and may become final rules.

**Staff Recommendation:** I recommend that the Commission adopt as **Pending Rules** the following Proposed Rules:

- 1) Docket 13-0108-1302 Temporary & Proposed. IDAPA 13.01.08 Rules Governing The Taking of Big Game Animals. This rule revises the Nonresident Junior Mentored Tag to delete the requirement that the accompanying adult have a tag valid in the same area.
- 2) Docket 13-0108-1303 Temporary & Proposed. IDAPA 13.01.08 Rules Governing The Taking of Big Game Animals. This rule makes a minor wording change to more closely align statute and rule language for designating a controlled hunt tag from a parent or grandparent to his or her minor child or grandchild.
- 3) Docket 13-0109-1301 Temporary & Proposed. IDAPA 13.01.04 Rules Governing The Taking of Game Birds in the State of Idaho. This rule makes a minor wording change to more closely align statute and rule language for designating a controlled hunt tag from a parent or grandparent to his or her minor child or grandchild.
- 4) Docket 13-0111-1301 Temporary & Proposed. IDAPA 13.01.11 Rules Governing Fish. This rule defines the terms “single-point hook” and “watercraft” which have been used for many years in fish season proclamations.
- 5) Docket 13-0111-1302 Temporary & Proposed. IDAPA 13.01.11 Rules Governing Fish. This rule is intended to minimize the risk of injury to sturgeon when landed by anglers by prohibiting removal from the water.

**13-67** Commissioner Corkill moved and Commissioner Naillon seconded a motion to accept the staff recommendation to adopt the proposed rules as pending rules. All Commissioners voted in favor.

## LANDS

### Harris Land Exchange, Brunn Acquisition, and Maynard Gulch

Gregg Servheen, Wildlife Program Coordinator, presented three land actions for Commission consideration/action.

**13-68** Commissioner Budge moved and Commissioner Corkill seconded a motion to approve the following described land actions. All Commissioners voted in favor.

#### Harris Land Exchange

Authorizing the Department to proceed with Harris Land exchange. This exchange involves the Department receiving 180 acres of elk and mule deer winter habitat adjacent to Boise River WMA in exchange for 48 acres of Department Boise River WMA property to the Harris Family Limited Partnership. The property to be received also provides fawning habitat for pronghorn. The Department Boise River 30,000-acre wildlife management area borders this property on the east side. The Department property is valued at \$40,000 and the Harris Family Limited

Partnership property is valued at \$240,000; the \$200,000 difference is a donation by the Harris Family Limited Partnership.

### Brunn Land Acquisition

Authorizing the Department to acquire the 5.01 acre Brunn property. This property provides low elevation mule deer winter and pronghorn fawning habitat adjacent to Boise River WMA and Hammer Flat property. The purchase price is \$49,000 of Department License funds and the operating and maintenance costs will be absorbed into the management of the existing WMA.

### Maynard Gulch Donation

Authorizing the Department to proceed with the Maynard Gulch acquisition. This acquisition entails the acceptance of a 7.75 acre donation from the Brighton Corporation. Idaho Fish and Game's Boise River wildlife management area borders this property. This parcel provides connectivity from the foothills winter range of the Boise River WMA to the Boise River riparian corridor via a natural movement corridor that is heavily used by mule deer. The Department agrees to accept the donated property from Brighton provided the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Brighton Corporation come to agreement on a mitigation funding agreement for the property. This property was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session in November of 2012. PILT is \$0 as property is less than 10 acres. O&M costs will be covered by fees collected from the homeowners association and administered by IFWF. The Lands Committee recommends proceeding with the acquisition.

## **MANAGEMENT PLANS AND POLICIES**

### **Westslope Cutthroat Management Plan**

Scott Grunder, Conservation and Restoration Coordinator presented the Management Plan for the Conservation of Westslope Cutthroat Trout in Idaho.

At the May 2013 Commission meeting, the Fisheries Bureau sought approval to solicit public review of the Draft Management Plan for the Conservation of Westslope Cutthroat Trout in Idaho. The Commission granted this request and the Fisheries Bureau held a 60-day public review period for the draft plan. Public comments were reviewed by Department staff and have been provided to the Commission. This management plan summarizes available information on westslope cutthroat trout in drainages within its occupied range in Idaho. It describes their population and genetic status with respect to abundance, trends, and an evaluation of threats to the subspecies. An executive summary and copies of the comments received were included in the Commissioners agenda books.

**13-69** Commissioner Naillon moved and Commissioner Doerr seconded a motion to accept the staff recommendation granting approval of the westslope cutthroat trout management plan as an official species management plan. All Commissioners voted in favor.

## **LEGISLATION**

### **Legislative Update and 2014 Legislative Process Guidance**

Sharon Kiefer, Deputy Director, briefed the Commission on the status of the proposed Department 2014 legislative proposals (Appendix 46, Exhibit 81). In regards to the fee increase proposal Deputy Director Kiefer stated that it is a novel approach to revenue. Other sister states were contacted and no one reported trying this approach to incentivizing consistent licensing purchasing.

In the best interest of the Department, staff recommendation is to pull the following two legislative proposals and keep for future legislative consideration and focus on the fee increase proposal.

- Increase fee ceiling for hunter education to \$12.00, including archery education (ceiling is currently \$8.00).
- Create Commission authority for rulemaking to promulgate fee rules for entry and use of designated Fish and Game properties and facilities for users who do not have a hunting, fishing, or trapping license.

The Commission is in agreement that strategically this is the best decision to hold the two proposals.

Deputy Director Kiefer reviewed the previous Commission legislative process including Commission conference calls and legislative analysis to gain Commission guidance for the upcoming 2014 session.

The Commission consensus was to hold legislative weekly conference calls to begin on Thursday, January 23, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. MST continuing through the legislative session.

## **REPORTS**

### **2013 Wildfires**

Regional Supervisors Scott Reinecker and Jerome Hansen provided an update on the 2013 Wildfires (Appendix 46, Exhibit 82). A series of wildfires in August 2013 burned over 400,000 acres in Southwest and Magic Valley Regions, impacting over 160,000 thousand acres of important winter range that supports an estimated 6,000 mule deer and more than 1,000 elk.

The regions conducted public meetings with landowners on September 17, 2013 to discuss potential issues. The Department hired a contractor to relocate 163 tons of elk pellets from South Fork Boise River to Mountain Home and Mayfield areas to prepare for emergency winter feeding relative to the impacts of the fires. Some of the challenges will be potential depredations on private ground, big game attempting to cross the interstate and winter feeding/baiting and securing feed sites on State and Federal public land.

### **Wildlife Management Area Briefing**

Tom Hemker, Wildlife Habitat Manager, presented a briefing on the Wildlife Management Areas (WMA).

The Department manages 32 wildlife management areas. They cover over 350,000 acres and provide about 700,000 user days annually. The Department's vision for this land is: "To provide and showcase important habitat for all wildlife and to offer high-quality, wildlife-based public recreation." They range in size from the 82,000 acre Craig Mountain WMA to the 314 acre Red River WMA. Twenty one are wetland-oriented and eleven are mostly upland habitats. Nine include large tracts purchased as mitigation for lost habitat, primarily for habitat lost to hydroelectric dams and reservoirs. In January 2014 draft plans for each WMA will be released for public input. These 10-year plans describe management direction and priorities for each WMA.

The Department continually interviews WMA users. In 2012 the Department conducted a scoping process that resulted in over 3,000 responses on the uses and needs of the Department's WMAs.

## **RULES**

### **Negotiated Rulemaking Briefing (Bear Baiting & LAP)**

Jeff Gould, Chief, Wildlife, presented an update on the status of negotiated rulemaking for Bear Baiting and Landowner Appreciation Program (LAP). Draft rules and a summary of changes for both were provided to the Commissioners (Appendix 46, Exhibit 83). Mr. Gould reported that Notices of Intent will be filed to meet the November 29, 2013 deadline. The comment period is January 1-22, 2014.

Mr. Gould referenced the comment and letter received from Larry Williams, Tree Top Ranches, at the public meeting regarding the Landowner Appreciation Program (Appendix 46, Exhibit 84).

Commissioners discussed the draft rule for the LAP rule to be submitted for negotiated rulemaking. The Commission is comfortable with the draft rule and feels that this is a good starting point for the Landowner Appreciation Program. The Commission is following legislative direction given for negotiated rulemaking.

## **REPORT**

### **IOGLB Rulemaking Update: Outfitting for Turkey and Waterfowl**

Jeff Gould, Chief, Wildlife, provided an update to the Commission.

In November 2009, the Commission and the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board (IOGLB) held a joint meeting to provide information relative to the temporary moratorium on outfitting for turkey and waterfowl hunting (IOGLB 2027). It was recognized that due to 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 could appropriately address the matters.

In March 2010, the Department and the IOGLB jointly established an advisory group with representatives from sportsman's groups, landowners, and outfitters to evaluate the issue of whether Idaho can allow, or not allow, additional outfitting for turkey and/or waterfowl on private and/or public lands, while protecting and maintaining private property rights.

The advisory group was formed to:

- 1) To understand the current conditions around the issue,
- 2) To find areas of agreement,
- 3) To prioritize possible solutions,
- 4) To make policy recommendations to the IOGLB and Commission, and
- 5) To be clear on whether the recommendations for turkeys and waterfowl were the same or needed to be different.

The group met during 2010 and 2011, and a final report was presented to the Commission. The group failed to reach a consensus, but did come to points of agreement. A draft rule was generated from the points of agreement.

In October 2012, the IOGLB initiated a negotiated rule making process that would carry through the remainder of calendar year 2012 and into 2013. The IOGLB held six public hearings throughout the state.

In August 2013, the IOGLB concluded the negotiated rule making process on this topic. After considering various versions of a draft rule, that had been disseminated during the process, and the written comments and testimony at the hearings, the IOGLB abandoned rule making for outfitted turkey and waterfowl hunting. The IOGLB decided to exercise its statutory responsibilities, and is now accepting and processing applications for outfitted turkey and waterfowl hunting on a case by case basis.

Commissioners were provided a copy of the IOGLB decision on negotiated rulemaking dated September 9, 2013 (Appendix 46, Exhibit 85) and the IOGLB policy regarding Outfitted Turkey & Waterfowl Hunting (Appendix 46, Exhibit 86).

## **RULES**

### **Modification to Elk Hunt 56-3**

Jon Rachael, State Wildlife Game Manager, presented the staff recommendation (Appendix 46, Exhibit 87) to the Commission.

Staff recommends the following modifications to Elk Hunt #2120:

- 1) Extend the season to December 31 (currently ends November 30).

2) Enlarge the hunt area. Proposed Hunt Area: That portion of Unit 56 south of the following: Beginning at the intersection of Interstate 84 and Sublett Road, then east along Sublett Road (becomes USFS Road 565) to USFS Road 582, then southeast along USFS Road 582 (becomes Heydlauff Canyon Road) to Sager Canyon Road, then north along Sager Canyon Road to Trail Canyon Road, then east along Trail Canyon Road to Hoffman Canyon Road, then north along Hoffman Canyon Road to Benson Road, then east along Benson Road to Highway 37; and that portion of Unit 57 beginning at the intersection of Interstate 84 and 3800 W Road then south along 380 W Road to USFS Road 587, then south along USFS Road 587 to the Idaho-Utah border, then east to Interstate 84, then north along Interstate 84 to point of beginning.

**13-70** Commissioner Doerr moved and Commissioner Budge seconded a motion to accept the staff's recommendation to extend the dates for the antlerless elk Hunt # 2120 from October 1 through December 31, 2013 and enlarge the hunt area as proposed. All Commissioners voted in favor.

## **MANAGEMENT PLANS AND POLICIES**

### **Elk Management Plan Update**

Craig White, Wildlife Staff Biologist, presented a summary of the public comments received about the draft Elk Management Plan (Appendix 46, Exhibit 88) during the 30-day comment period. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game released the plan for comment from August 22 through September 2013. Comments were solicited from the general public, NGO's Federal land management agencies and tribal entities. Comments were collected using the Department website, hard copy and by email. Comments are an important step in developing the elk management plan. The comments provide guidance and help the Department document what is acceptable and highlight areas of the plan that need to be clarified or corrected.

The Department received 19 written comments, separate from the website. Eight were from Agencies and NGO's, 10 from citizens and one of the citizen letters was signed by 27 individuals. The general tone of the written comments was support for the plan. Each group stressed the importance of elk management and several mentioned the importance of managing predation to benefit elk in some areas.

The elk plan was viewed by 1,203 individuals on the Department website during the comment period. The Department received 442 written comments through the website. The number one topic mentioned in the comments was predation.

Department staff will present the plan to the Commission for final approval at the January 2014 meeting and begin to implement changes to seasons at the March 2014 Commission meeting.

A Guide to Idaho's 2014 Elk Plan draft (Appendix 46, Exhibit 89) was distributed to Commissioners. The guide is a short 10 page document summarizing the high points of the Elk Plan.

## **REPORTS**

## **Western Governors' Association west-wide Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (WGA CHAT)**

Gary Vecellio, Environmental Staff Biologist, provided a briefing (Appendix 46, Exhibit 90).

The Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT) is the product of a charge from the Western Governors through the Western Governors' Association (WGA) to create a picture of crucial wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors across the west in a publicly available GIS format. Their intent was a tool visually depicting state wildlife priorities founded by state data and expertise.

The CHAT provides a high-level, coarse-scale overview of crucial habitat for pre-planning of large-scale or regional infrastructure projects (e.g. energy, transportation). The tool does not have a regulatory function; it was created to inform. Further, the tool is not of a scale that can be used for specific project siting. CHAT is a landscape view to help to avoid conflicts and surprises and to help integrate wildlife values into planning. The tool provides aggregated information; it is not species specific.

To coordinate the states, the Wildlife Council was created with representatives of the western states appointed by the Governors. The Wildlife Council established common definitions of crucial habitat and issued guidelines to help each state prioritize habitat within its boundaries to meet its specific wildlife objectives. The region-wide definitions helped to achieve compatibility and consistency across state boundaries.

IDFG staff has been involved with 15 other states working on the CHAT for three years. The western Governors charged the states with providing a tool by December, 2013, which will be accomplished. The CHAT will be publicly launched at the annual WGA meeting in December, 2013.

Protocols for updating, determining a long-term host for the website, and fiscal support are ongoing discussions of the WGA.

## **Wolverine and Other ESA Candidate Species**

Rex Sallabanks, Wildlife Diversity Program Manager, provided a report on the wolverine and other ESA candidate species (Appendix 46, Exhibit 91). Dr. Sallabanks reported that under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, a species can be listed as threatened or endangered. A third classification related to listing is candidate status. Candidate species have sufficient information on their status and threats to propose them as threatened or endangered under the ESA, but for which development of a proposed listing regulation is precluded by other higher priority listing activities.

Currently, several candidate and listed species in Idaho are at various stages in the ESA process and require Department action. These include the wolverine, yellow-billed cuckoo, fisher, Columbia spotted frog, southern Idaho ground squirrel, and Canada lynx.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Appointment of Commission Representative to WAFWA**

**13-71** Commissioner Corkill moved and Commissioner Doerr seconded a motion for Commissioner Will Naillon to continue to serve as the WAFWA representative. All Commissioners voted in favor.

### **Set the 2014 Commission Calendar**

The Commission set meeting dates and sites for its 2014 meetings (Appendix 46, Exhibit 92).

## **REPORT**

### **Reservist Award / Gene Wright**

Magic Valley Reservist Gene Wright was nominated for the prestigious Field and Stream Hero's of Conservation award this past year. In April, Gene appeared in Field and Stream magazine, honored for over 8,000 hours of volunteer work for Idaho Sportsmen and the Department. Gene was then selected as one of 6 national finalists for the award. Gene and his wife were flown back to Washington D.C. in September 2013 to be further honored, where he shed a bright light on Idaho's wildlife resources.

Reservists and volunteers provide very important support for Department programs, accomplishing thousands of hours of work that benefits wildlife and sportsmen. The Department and Commission expressed their thanks to Mr. Wright for his dedication and service to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

## **MANAGEMENT PLANS AND POLICIES**

### **Bighorn Sheep Management Update**

Brad Compton provided an update to the Commission on the Bighorn Sheep Management and Research (Appendix 46, Exhibit 93). Hollie Miyasaki reported on the implementation of the 2010 Bighorn Sheep Management Plan (Appendix 46, Exhibit 94). The Idaho Fish and Game maintains active bighorn sheep management and research projects; including work being conducted in the Clearwater, Southwest, Upper Snake, and Salmon regions. Current projects are designed to address both statutory requirements and policy guidance contained within the 2010 Bighorn Sheep Management Plan.

Idaho Code Section 36-106(5)(D) and (E) outline the process requirements for management of bighorn sheep, including recognition of domestic sheep allotments and maintaining separation between wild and domestic sheep. Idaho Code Section 36-408(5) provides for commission allocation of 2 special bighorn sheep tags; auction and lottery.

## **REPORT**

### **Department Technical Comment Policy**

This item was added as an agenda item change. Commissioner Fred Trevey made a request that the Commission revisit the Department Technical Comment Policy.

Commissioner Randy Budge provided a historical perspective on the policy (Appendix 46, Exhibit 95).

At their November 10, 2011 meeting, the Commission adopted the following resolution and “preface language” to be used when the Department is submitting formal written comments to private or public decision-makers for proposals, projects, and plans affecting fish and wildlife or their habitat.

Adopted by the Commission:

BE IT RESOLVED, that it is part of the role and responsibility of the Department in fulfilling its mission of protecting, preserving and managing wildlife to provide comments, whether required by law, solicited or volunteered, about proposals concerning their effects to wildlife and wildlife habitat and how any adverse effects might be mitigated. However, in so doing, the Department should not assert any position “for” or “against” the proposal. Instead, the Departments comments should provide technical information and act as an expert assessing the effects to wildlife and wildlife habitat and how any adverse effects might be mitigated. All formal, public comment submitted by the Department to any public or private decision authority shall be prefaced at the top of the document with the following language:

The purpose of these comments is to assist the decision-making authority by providing technical information addressing potential effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat and how any adverse effects might be mitigated. It is not the purpose of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to support or oppose this proposal.

Chairman Barowsky stated that if the Commission desires to have further discussion or make any modifications to the policy that it could be addressed at the January meeting.

### **Director’s Report**

Topics in the Director’s Report to the Commission included the Fish and Game’s 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – November 8, 2013 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission by the successful passing of a citizen’s initiative. Final approval of the legislative package completed; Regional Supervisors will be contacting and meeting with their respective legislators; and the Idaho Wolf Management report in the Commission agenda book.

### **Commissioner Reports**

Commission Reports stand as written (Appendix 46, Exhibit 96).

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Executive Session**

Executive Session I.C. 67-2345(1)(b) (c) (f)

**13-72** Commissioner Naillon moved and Commissioner Doerr seconded a motion to hold an executive session pursuant of subsections (b) (c) and (f) of Idaho Code Section 67-2345 to discuss lands and litigation. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Randy Budge, Mark Doerr, Will Naillon, Bob Barowsky, Brad Corkill, and Fred Trevey.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m. with no official action taken.

Robert Barowsky  
Chairman

Virgil Moore  
Secretary