

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting
January 30 2014
Boise, Idaho**

Present in the Director's Office: Virgil Moore, Director; Jim Unsworth, Deputy Director; Mary Boyer, Executive Assistant; Kathleen Trever, Deputy Attorney General; Jeff Gould, Wildlife Chief; Mike Keckler, Communications Chief; Gregg Wooten, Acting Enforcement Chief; Brad Compton, Assistant Wildlife Chief; Jon Rachael, State Wildlife Manager; and Jim Hayden, Biologist.

A special meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by telephone conference. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Barowsky with Commissioners Brad Corkill, Fred Trevey, Mark Doerr, Randy Budge, Kenny Anderson and Will Naillon participating.

LEGISLATION

Status of Fish and Game Rule Dockets in the Committees

Legislative Review of FG rules has concluded; all rules accepted.

Fish and Game Sponsored Bill Analysis/Discussion

Deputy Director Jim Unsworth provided a status of Fish and Game sponsored bills and RS (Appendix 47, Exhibit 14).

Senate Bill 1207 - Amend Wildlife Special Plate legislation terms from "elk wildlife special plate" and "cutthroat wildlife special plate" to "animal wildlife special plate" and "fish wildlife special plate" to allow broader spectrum of designs to retain customer interest.

Awaiting bill hearing in the Senate Transportation Committee.

Senate Bill 1216 - FY14 Supplemental Appropriation. Has passed the Senate and is on the House floor.

Senate Bill 1219 - Exempt duplicate licenses and tags from set-aside requirements because set-aside are met at the time of original purchase and revise the set-aside for the reduced fee Disabled Combination-Fishing License to be a value that is proportional to the Adult Combination License set-aside. Awaiting bill hearing in Senate Resources and Environment Committee.

Senate Bill 1220 - Expand wildlife species covered by a reimbursable penalty of \$50 to all protected wildlife that is not otherwise identified in Idaho Code 36-1404. Senate Resources and Environment has sent to the floor with a "do pass" recommendation.

House Bill 398 - Amends existing law to provide for discounted license fees, to authorize a discount in fees to encourage hunting, fishing and trapping, to encourage purchase of licenses in

consecutive years and to encourage the purchase of multiple tags and permits. Awaiting bill hearing in House Resources and Conservation Committee.

House Bill 399 - Amends existing law to remove a prohibition relating to the hunting of big game by persons with a junior hunting license who are ten or eleven years of age and are accompanied in the field by an adult licensed to hunt in Idaho; to provide that a license may be issued to certain qualified persons who are nine years of age to allow the application for a controlled hunt big game tag; and to provide that persons with certain licenses shall be entitled to fish in the waters of the state for a period of three consecutive days in each license year. Awaiting bill hearing in House Resources and Conservation Committee.

RS 22427 - Increase resident fees in Idaho Code 36-416 and make other changes: Increase fees for all resident licenses, tags, and permits by about 20% to affect 2015 fees. Awaiting bill hearing in House Resources and Conservation Committee.

New Bill Analysis/Discussion

House Bill 423 - Adds to and amends existing law to provide for the Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board, to provide for the Wolf Control Fund and the Wolf Control Secondary Fund, to provide for the collection and deposit of wolf control assessments by the Idaho State Brand Inspector and the Idaho Sheep and Goat Health Board, to provide for the transfer of specified moneys from the Fish and Game Fund to the Fish and Game Fund Transfer Subaccount; to provide that the Fish and Game Commission shall provide the Wolf Depredation Control Board with direction for use of fish and game funds; and to increase the maximum fee that the State Brand Inspector may impose for brand renewal.

IDFG Legislation Analysis for House Bill 423

Current Law/Background: Wolf control for depredation of livestock and wildlife currently is funded primarily through Wildlife Services federal funds and funds administered by the Animal Damage Control Board, which includes IDFG license funds transferred into the Animal Damage Control Fund. The FG license funds must be used in accordance with direction by the FG Commission on actions regarding predatory animals or birds (36-112 and 36-115(c)). At least \$100K of FG license funds is transferred into the Animal Damage Control Fund annually.

Pursuant to recommendation by the Fish and Game Advisory Committee to create sustainable Idaho funding for wolf control for livestock and wildlife conflicts in light of decreasing federal funds, House Bill 423 creates a mechanism for a “three-legged stool” of funding from the livestock industry, sportsmen via license funds, and Idaho general fund.

Synopsis/Analysis: The bill creates a Wolf Control Fund (Fund) and the Wolf Depredation Control Board (Board) to administer the fund. The Board has authority to cooperate and contract to fund wolf control (such as a funding contract with Wildlife Services). There are no new direct management authorities conveyed to the Board. The bill is explicit that control actions funded by the Board will be consistent with existing law, such as Fish and Game management of wolf depredation permits.

The Board is comprised of the directors of Agriculture and Fish and Game and includes 3 members appointed by the Governor. Each appointed member would represent one of the following interests – sportsmen, the livestock industry, or the public.

14-10 Commissioner Budge moved and Commissioner Corkill seconded a motion to support HB 423. All Commissioners voted in favor.

Other Discussion

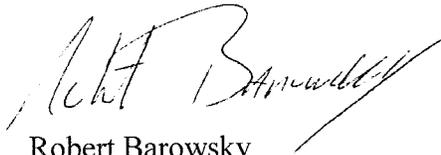
Deputy Director Unsworth reported that the JFAC presentation on January 28th went well and staff is working on responses for some questions that were asked.

A Joint Resource Committee Sage-grouse hearing, was held January 29th.

Commissioners discussed the draft support letter to Foundation for Wildlife Management.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.



Robert Barowsky
Chairman



Virgil Moore
Secretary