

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting
February 13, 2014
Boise, Idaho**

Present in the Director's Office: Virgil Moore, Director; Jim Unsworth, Deputy Director; Sharon Kiefer, Deputy Director; Mary Boyer, Executive Assistant; Kathleen Trever, Deputy Attorney General; Dallas Burkhalter, Deputy Attorney General; Jeff Gould, Wildlife Chief; Hollie Miyasaki, Wildlife Staff Biologist; Gregg Wooten, Acting Enforcement Chief; and Mike Keckler, Communications Chief.

Jim Hayden, Staff Biologist; Phil Cooper, Wildlife Conservation Educator; and constituent Jack Hammack participated from the Panhandle Region office.

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, Randy Budge, Will Naillon, and Mark Doerr participating. Commissioner Kenny Anderson was absent.

LEGISLATION

Bill Status Discussion

Deputy Director Sharon Kiefer provided a recap of bills and referenced the bill tracking tables (Appendix 47, Exhibit 16).

Senate Bill 1219 – Exempt duplicate licenses and tags from license and tag set-aside requirements and revise amount of license set-aside for resident Disabled Combination-Fishing Licenses. *Awaiting bill hearing in Senate Resources and Environment.*

Senate Bill 1220 – Revise reimbursable penalty provision to include all wildlife classified protected by the Fish and Game Commission. *Awaiting bill hearing in House Resources and Conservation on 2/13.*

House Bill 398 – Expand Fish and Game Commission discount authority via Commission order. *Bill hearing in House Resources and Conservation on 2/13.*

House Bill 399 – Lower age to hunt big game. *Bill hearing in House Resources and Conservation on 2/13.*

RS 22427 – FG Fee Increase. *Awaiting print hearing in House Resources and Conservation.*

House Bill 423 – Wolf Control Fund and Wolf Depredation Control Board. *Replaced by House Bill 470.* The Commission previously took a position to support.

Senate Bill 1276 – Revise provisions of qualified organization to apply for disabled American veteran special big game hunt tag. *Awaiting a bill hearing in Senate Resources and Environment.*

Senate Bill 1278 – Revise provisions of nonresident disabled American veteran hunting license and tags. *Awaiting a bill hearing in Senate Resources and Environment.*

House Bill 431 – Amends provisions for the testing for chronic wasting disease of certain domestic cervidae, provides for inventory and facility inspection of farms and ranches and revises fees. *Awaiting a bill hearing in Senate Agricultural Affairs.*

New Bill Analysis/Discussion

House Bill 467 - Provides that LAP controlled hunt permits may also be issued for bear and turkey and provides that wildlife subject to depredation hunts shall include bear and turkey.

Current Law/Background: Currently, the Commission can authorize the Director to issue LAP tags for deer, elk, and antelope to landowners with habitat important to deer, elk, and antelope. Also, relative to depredation damage by wildlife, the Director has delegated authority to issue depredation hunts for such wildlife.

Synopsis/Analysis: HB 467 provides discretion to the Commission to add bear and turkey to the LAP program, i.e. landowners with important habitat for bear and turkey where general hunting is limited, could participate in LAP to draw bear tags or turkey permits. Also, the bill makes it explicit that depredation hunts can be created for bear or turkey that are damaging private property, although we already have the authority to conduct depredation hunts for any wildlife that is causing damage.

14-14 Commissioner Budge moved and Commissioner Doerr seconded a motion to monitor House Bill 467. All Commissioners voted in favor.

House Bill 468 – Amends existing law to provide that the definitions of “outfitter” and “guide” shall not apply to private landowners and their employees who provide facilities or services upon their own privately owned property.

Current Law/Background: Currently, the policy of the legislature is to regulate and license outfitters and guides regardless of whether their activity occurs on private or non-private land. The Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board (IOGLB) is authorized to license and regulate outfitting and guiding.

Synopsis/Analysis: This bill exempts private property from regulated outfitting and guiding and clarifies that outfitter and guide licensure and regulation only applies to activities on public land. Private landowners and their employees that provide facilities and services, whether compensated or not, are not included in the definitions of outfitter and guide.

Staff is seeking clarification regarding status of licensed outfitters that may have “permission” from a private landowner, such as a lease agreement, to conduct O&G activities on the private ground because the bill is specific in only exempting private landowners and their employees (does not include their “agents”).

Presumably, private landowners who do accept compensation for facilities and services on their land would no longer be eligible for recreational immunity. Private landowners who physically engage in hunting or fishing activity in the course of providing facilities or services on their land would still be required to have appropriate IDFG licenses and tags.

14-15 Commissioner Budge moved and Commissioner Corkill seconded a motion to monitor House Bill 468. All Commissioners voted in favor.

House Bill 469 – Provides that the Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board shall not accept, process or approve any applications for outfitted or guided turkey or waterfowl hunting and unless licensed to do so prior to a certain date, a person may not outfit or guide turkey or waterfowl hunters for compensation, and codifies previous moratorium on outfitted turkey or waterfowl hunting.

14-16 Commissioner Doerr moved and Commissioner Corkill seconded a motion to monitor House Bill 469. All Commissioners voted in favor.

House Bill 470 – New version of House Bill 423 to establish a Wolf Control Fund and Wolf Depredation Control Board. There is little change from HB423. Commission supported.

MISCELLANEOUS

Potential Extension of Snare Check Requirement for Wolves Beyond 72 Hours

Per the Commission's request at its conference call on February 6, 2014, staff provided an analysis of the potential extension of wolf snare check requirements beyond 72 hours.

Commissioners discussed options to use a designated agent or submit paperwork for a temporary rule (PARF).

Commission consensus is for staff to prepare a PARF for a temporary rule to extend the trap check period for snares for wolf trapping from 72 hours to 8 days in certain geographic areas for the benefit of elk and other ungulate populations below Department objectives. The intent of the rule is to improve participation and effectiveness of trappers to harvest wolves in specific backcountry areas defined by the Fish and Game commission, where elk herd recruitment and resulting hunting seasons are affected by wolf predation, and where harvest of wolves has been low and little conflict with other uses is expected. This rule is a pilot application to determine the extent to which it achieves its intent and to evaluate implementation.

Commissioner Barowsky requested that Jim Hayden and Hollie Miyasaki present an overview on Species Management at the March meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

Handwritten signature of Robert Barowsky in black ink.

Robert Barowsky
Chairman

Handwritten signature of Virgil Moore in black ink.

Virgil Moore
Secretary