

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Quarterly Meeting November 12-13, 2014
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Post Falls, Idaho**

November 12

MISCELLANEOUS

Clark Fork Delta and Cabinet Gorge Hatchery Field Tour

Commissioners Fred Trevey, Brad Corkill, Blake Fischer, Mark Doerr, Lane Clezie, Kenny Anderson and Will Naillon participated on the tour.

Commissioner Orientation

Commissioner Anderson shared information on current fish and wildlife issues to assist new Commissioners Blake Fischer and Lane Clezie.

Public Meeting

Chairman Trevey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Commissioners Brad Corkill, Blake Fischer, Mark Doerr, Lane Clezie, Kenny Anderson and Will Naillon present. Director Moore introduced staff in attendance. Chairman Trevey reviewed the procedure for the public meeting.

The following individuals provided public comment: Tony McDermott, Ray Millard, Jim Hagedorn, Jack Hammack, Charles Ratlift, Katherine Vonhaoel, Heidi Hampe-Carter, Cecilia Nolthenius, David Spotelstra, Jean Nelson, Della Munnich, Juergen Nolthenius, Susan Melka, Philip Sweet, Edith Bishop, Michael R. Denney, Diane Bittick, Larry Kaiser, Robert Bittick, Pat Darry, Jay Lawson, Linda Sorensen, Kathy McNelis, David Korn, Dave Thomson, Delbert Jepson, Brad Smith, Marjorie Spangler, John S. Gilbert.

Written comment (Appendix 47, Exhibit 70) was received from Jason Pyron, Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation, Ed Lindahl, Shane Hayes, Jared S. Boley, Mike Ward, Andy White and Byron Anderson.

November 13

MISCELLANEOUS

Review of Public Comment

The Commission discussed and reviewed the comments from the public hearing. Director Moore noted that there were 28 individuals who testified. The common theme was trapping and safety for owners and pets at English Point. One individual spoke regarding soft catch traps. Other comments heard were on the effects of wolf predation on ungulates related to hunting seasons; and predation management related to ravens. Additional comment received on the status of Lake Pend Oreille and a thank you to Idaho Fish and Game for creating a great North Idaho Fishery.

Consent Calendar

The Consent Calendar included the following items:

- Minutes June 30, July 9-10, July 18, August 11, and October 15, 2014
- Financial Report

14-86 Commissioner Corkill moved and Commissioner Anderson seconded a motion to approve the minutes listed in the consent calendar. All Commissioners voted in favor.

14-87 Commissioner Doerr moved and Commissioner Corkill seconded a motion to approve the Financial Report listed in the consent calendar. All Commissioners voted in favor.

RULES

Renewal of Commission Order Discounting Nonresident Tag Fees For Mountain Lion, Black Bear, and Gray Wolf

Sharon Kiefer, Deputy Director, presented the proposal.

Idaho Code Section 36-415 grants discretionary authority to the Commission to discount fees for licenses, including tags and permits upon finding a biological need or public need or unsold licenses. Fees may be discounted for several purposes, including for specific species, units, areas, zones, or gender as necessary to encourage increased license sales or to encourage hunting, fishing or trapping. Any discounted fee is effective only for the time period set by a Commission Order. Holders of licenses purchased before the discount are not entitled by a refund except as provided by rule.

On November 8, 2012, the Commission reviewed the status of Order 11-33, which provided for tag fee discounts for mountain lion, black bear, and gray wolf, set to expire December 31, 2012. The Commission authorized Order 12-46 to extend discounted nonresident tag fees for mountain lion, black bear, and gray wolf in certain units or statewide in the case of gray wolf.

Order 12-46 is in effect through December 31, 2014. A new order is necessary to continue tag fee discounts past this date.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends continuing to decrease nonresident mountain lion, black bear and wolf tags but with a decrease of \$10 in the Commission discount resulting in nonresident mountain lion, black bear, and wolf tag fees of \$41.75 (previously \$31.75), inclusive of the vendor issuance fee. The new discount proposal represents a fee that is 22% of the full fee

of \$186. While there may be some buyer resistance to a reduction in the discount, staff does not believe that the biological need for harvest and the need for public participation in hunting in the targeted units will be materially affected.

Staff also recommends a new Commission Order remain in effect through December 31, 2016.

14-88 Commissioner Doerr moved and Commissioner Clezie seconded a motion to accept the staff recommendation as noted in the gold sheet.

14-88 A Commissioner Naillon moved and Commissioner Anderson seconded a motion to amend the motion to increase the nonresident mountain lion and black bear tags to \$41.75, leaving the nonresident wolf tag fees at the current \$31.75 price. The Order 14-60 (Appendix 47, Exhibit 71) is in effect through December 31, 2016. All Commissioners voted in favor.

Pending Rules Ratification

Deputy Attorney General, Kathleen Trever, presented the rules.

As part of the rulemaking process under the Idaho Administrative Procedure Act (IDAPA), the Commission needs to adopt as Pending Rules those Proposed Rules previously promulgated during the last rulemaking year. We have referred to this process as ‘ratification’ because the Commission is formally approving rules which it has already promulgated. This approval is needed for the rules to be reviewed by the 2015 Legislature. If the Pending Rules are accepted by the Legislature, the rules will become Final Rules.

The IDAPA provision for adopting Pending Rules and the legislative review process is Idaho Code Section 67-5224. There are no policy issues. This is an annual step in the rulemaking process.

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

- 1) Docket No. 13-0102-1401 Temporary and Proposed. IDAPA 13.01.02 – Rules Governing Hunter Education and Mentored Hunting. This rule amends the Mentored Hunting program to reflect that youth that are 10 years of age can hunt big game.
- 2) Docket No. 13-0104-1402 Temporary and Proposed. IDAPA 13.01.04 – Rules Governing Licensing. This rule amendment revises the eligibility rules for nonresident disabled American veterans to receive a reduced fee hunting license and certain tags.
- 3) Docket No. 13-0104-1403 Temporary and Proposed. IDAPA 13.01.04 - Rules Governing Licensing. This rule amendment revises the rules that reference qualified organizations for the disabled veteran big game tag program to add IRS status 501(c) (4) organizations.
- 4) Docket No. 13-0104-1404 Temporary and Proposed. IDAPA 13.01.04 - Rules Governing Licensing. This rule amendment implements new discretionary Commission authority to add bear tags to the Landowner Appreciation Program.
- 5) Docket No. 13-0108-1402 Proposed. IDAPA 13.01.08 - Rules Governing the Take of Big Game Animals in the State of Idaho. This rule amendment would allow the Commission to designate specific unlimited controlled hunts for deer and elk as “first-choice only.”

- 6) Docket No. 13-0108-1403 Temporary and Proposed. IDAPA 13.01.08 - Rules Governing the Take of Big Game Animals in the State of Idaho. This rule amendment changes the hunting age for big game.
- 7) Docket No. 13-0108-1404 Temporary and Proposed. IDAPA 13.01.08 - Rules Governing the Take of Big Game Animals in the State of Idaho. This rule amendment reorganizes some elk zones, and the units contained within a zone (to conform to the 2014 Elk Plan).
- 8) Docket No. 13-0109-1401 Temporary and Proposed. IDAPA 13.01.09 – Rules Governing the Taking of Game Birds. This rule amendment gives the Commission the flexibility to modify shooting hours on Wildlife Management Areas where pheasants are stocked.

14-89 Commissioner Clezie moved and Commissioner Naillon seconded a motion to adopt as pending rules the eight proposed rules presented. All Commissioners voted in favor.

Nonbiological Rulemaking Proposal Conibear-Style Restriction For Land Sets

Jon Rachael, State Wildlife Manager, reported that last winter, along with the widely-reported deaths of two dogs caught in traps, the Department and Commission received numerous complaints from bird and waterfowl hunters and other outdoor recreationalists about safety in areas where their activities overlap with trapping. We also received input from at least one land management agency that they would consider area closures for land sets if public demand continued and other measures were not instituted by IDFG. In response IDFG convened small working groups in each region to brain-storm ideas that could be considered to reduce conflicts. Each working group met 1-3 times to review conflicts and develop recommendations. Three primary recommendations were common among all groups:

- 1) Increase trapper education
- 2) Increase public awareness and education about trapping and releasing pets from traps
- 3) Develop regulations and/or BMPs for body-grip traps and other traps to reduce likelihood of non-target catches

Since that time, the Department has made progress on implementation of those recommendations:

- 1) The Department has identified an online trapper education course that can be offered through the IDFG website, potentially in combination with a regional field day. That program is available to load on the website now. Additionally, 30 IDFG staff will be attending a training class for trapper education instructors in April, thus making trapper education more widely available.
- 2) IDFG produced a video on “How to release your dog from a trap.” The video has been widely distributed and has received thousands of views. Additionally, a brochure based on the video was produced to demonstrate how to release dogs from various traps. Over 10,000 copies have been distributed across the state. The brochure is also available on our

website. A second video on how to identify traps and trapping activity in an area is currently in production and should be available for distribution in November.

- 3) Lastly, at the July commission meeting the Commission directed wildlife staff to develop proposed rules to restrict the use of body-gripping traps that address the recommendations of the working groups. If approved by the Commission, the proposed rules would be vetted through negotiated rule-making process.

Staff has developed the following draft rules:

Proposed Rule for body-grip traps*

- Body-grip traps with jaw openings greater than 4.5 inches and less than 7 inches across can be used on dry land only when set 7 inches or more back inside a hard container made with wood, plastic, fiberglass, or metal with opening that is no larger than 7 inches in width and total size of opening does not exceed 52 sq. inches, OR when set at least 4 feet above ground or snow.
- Any body-grip traps with jaw openings greater than or equal to 7 inches can be used only in water and must be completely submerged when set and immediately after checking at 72 hour intervals.
- * “body gripping trap” is defined as a Conibear or similarly-operated trap designed to snap closed on the target animal’s body killing the animal.

Idaho Statute 36-104 authorizes the Commission to establish rules for the taking of wildlife consistent with state policy. Species management plans provide Commission direction for population and harvest management. IDAPA 13.01.16 establishes rules for the trapping of predatory and unprotected wildlife and the taking of furbearing animals.

After discussion the Commission asked the Department to seek input from representatives of the two trapping associations in Idaho and develop a proposal for a mandatory trapper education program. The Commission wanted to review this information at the next meeting in January.

LANDS

Gregg Servheen, Wildlife Program Coordinator, presented the following land items.

Cave Lake Land Donation

This project is a donation of 0.627 acres adjacent to Department ownership on the Coeur d’Alene River Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and fronting Cave Lake in Kootenai County. The landowner is willing to donate the parcel to the Department at no cost to the Department. The estimated value of the parcel is less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00).

This property could be easily incorporated into the Coeur d'Alene River WMA and operations on the WMA. Acquisition of the parcel would also allow the Department to better manage the current ownership and reduce trespass and other issues associated with in-holdings.

If not acquired, the landowner will sell the property to another private landowner who may develop the parcel for recreational uses that might conflict with other recreational use by the public.

The property was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session on March 19, 2014.

Swan Lake/Freeman Lake Exchange

This project is an exchange by warranty deed of 69 acres of the Department's Freeman Lake property in Bonner County for 36 acres of property on Swan Lake adjacent to the IDFG Coeur d'Alene WMA owned by the Minnaloosa Land Company in Kootenai County.

The Minnaloosa Land Company will convey to the Department by warranty deed the Swan Lake property and \$260,689.00 in cash to balance the value for value trade. In exchange, the Department will convey to the Minnaloosa Land Company, by warranty deed 69 acres of the Freeman Lake property leaving the Department retaining the roadway in to Freeman Lake and 30.4-acres of the public access site.

The Swan Lake parcel is located on the north shoreline of the lake between a private ranch and Department ownership. It is bordered to the north by the U.S. Forest Service. There are lacustrine wetland and wet meadow communities on the property. The uplands consist of Ponderosa pine/Douglas fir dry forest stands. The property would be excellent for anglers, waterfowl hunters, and big game hunters who want to access the adjacent federal and state properties.

The 99.4-acre remote Freeman Lake parcel located north of Newport, Washington and adjacent to the state line is associated with the fishing and boating access site at Freeman Lake. It is a very remote site and difficult to manage. The Department is continually dealing with illegal timber harvest and vandalism at the site. The objective is to keep the road and 30.4 acres for public access to the lake so that the access this property has provided is unaffected by the trade. The cash balance to be provided to IDFG in the trade is license money and can be used by the Department for its own priorities.

The property was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session on January 15, 2014.

Silver Creek Exchange

This project is an exchange of 29.79 IDFG acres of what is now leased property for agricultural purposes to Picabo Land and Livestock for approximately 2 miles of permanent public access protected through easement along both banks of Silver Creek. Silver Creek is a world renowned blue ribbon trout stream located near Picabo, Idaho. The easement will allow sportsmen year-round access within 30 ft. of the high-water mark along Silver Creek, allowing them to walk and

hike along the banks of the stream. Previously this was a temporary exchange renewed every three years with Picabo Land and Livestock.

The IDFG property is valued at \$390,000, and Picabo Land and Livestock easement is valued at \$390,000. A new road will be constructed to access the existing IDFG property and Silver Creek West Access site.

This proposal was presented to the Commission in executive session in January 2012.

There is no acquisition cost other than due diligences costs for surveys, appraisals, recording, etc.

FILT will decrease as this is an exchange of fee-title property for an easement.

O&M costs will be construction and maintenance of a new road accessing existing IDFG property.

14-90 Commissioner Corkill moved and Commissioner Clezie seconded a motion to adopt the staff recommendations for the acquisition of the Cave Lake property, Swan Lake /Freeman Lake exchange and for the Silver Creek exchange. All Commissioners voted in favor.

Strupp Property Proposal

Sharon Kiefer, Deputy Director, reported that the Department submitted a negotiated purchase of the Strupp property to the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation in November of 2010. The property is strategically located and will increase public access to important fisheries. A funding proposal was presented to the IFWF on November 7, 2014 to acquire the property from the IFWF. Staff recommendation is to proceed with the purchase of the property.

14-91 Commissioner Naillon moved and Commission Clezie seconded a motion to proceed with the Strupp land proposal. All Commissioners voted in favor.

MISCELLANEOUS

Appointment Commission Representative to WAFWA

14-92 Commissioner Corkill moved and Commissioner Anderson seconded a motion to appoint Commissioner Will Naillon as the representative for WAFWA. All Commissioners voted in favor.

LEGISLATION

Legislative Update and 2015 Commission Legislative Process Guidance

Deputy Director Kiefer reviewed the 2015 Commission legislative process including Commission conference calls and legislative analysis to gain Commission guidance for the

upcoming 2015 session. Commission consensus is to have the same format as used for the 2014 session with the calls scheduled for Thursdays at 8:00 a.m. starting January 29, 2015. To date the following Department legislative proposal has been approved for legislative consideration.

- Exempt duplicate licenses and tags from the set-aside requirements of \$2.00 for every combination or hunting license sold and \$1.50 for every antelope, elk, and deer tag sold.

Currently there is one pending revenue proposal previously presented at the July meeting under Governor review.

FISCAL

Second Tag Sales for Nonresident Deer and Elk Tags

Michael Pearson, Chief, Administration, provided an update on the sales of discounted *second* nonresident deer and elk tags, which were set in July 2014 at \$199 for deer and \$299 for elk before the vendor issuance fee. As of November 7 the Department has seen a rough gain of \$250,000 selling 2,300 deer and 1,020 second nonresident elk tags, surpassing the financial breakeven point.

REPORT

Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation Update

Sharon Kiefer, Deputy Director provided the IFWF update for Ann Dehner, Executive Director.

- At its August meeting, the Foundation's Board of Directors approved over \$119,000 in grants from restricted endowed and non-endowed funds for various projects that benefit the Department. These projects include pond improvements for family fishing access, improvements to nature centers such as the Waterlife Discovery Center in Sandpoint and the MK Nature Center in Boise, and other wildlife management and conservation education projects. It also includes over \$22,500 for farmers in eastern Idaho to plant lure crops for Sandhill Cranes to mitigate crop damage, and a grant for \$55,000 for a restoration project on Sheep Creek in the Upper Blackfoot Basin.
- As an original sponsor of the Wildlife license plates, the Foundation provides marketing activities to promote the purchase and renewal of plates. Keeping in mind that plate purchases and renewals can swing dramatically from month to month, statistics for the period ending in September over last year saw sales of new Bluebird plates down about 3.4% but renewals were up by about the same percentage. The elk plate saw an increase of new plates sales of 4.2% with renewals down about 1.2%, and new Cutthroat trout sales were up 13.5% and renewals also up by about 3%. The Foundation continues to work with the Department on new marketing strategies.
- The Foundation continues negotiations with various parties to secure public access on its Little Salmon River property in Riggins.

- Foundation's staff is working to increase its public awareness to new philanthropic giving to add to its endowed and non-endowed funds that benefit various wildlife management and conservation projects throughout the state. Some of these funds include the negotiation for new funds for targeted wetland mitigation and other activities, also in various regions in the state.
- The next meeting of the Foundation's Board of Directors will be held on December 7 in Boise.

Rain Check Policy Update

Deputy Director Kiefer provided an update to the Commission. This agenda item is at the request of the Commission. Background information and the existing Delegation of Authority to the Director was provided to the Commission (Appendix 47, Exhibit 72). Commission authority to consider rain check and refund requests is administered through Idaho Code.

In July 2013, the Commission directed staff to provide written clarity regarding its delegation of authority to the Director's Office for consideration of rain check and refund requests. Further, the Commission requested a report about refunds and rain checks for the 2013 license year, presented in November 2013. Through 10/16/13, there were 278 requests for refunds or rain checks with 71% (108) of the requests for refunds approved and 96% of the requests for rain checks approved. Basis of approvals were either Commission rules or the Director's delegated authority.

The Commission has discretionary authority under Idaho Code Section 36-408 to prescribe the number and kind of wildlife that may be taken under authority of the several types of tags and permits and the manner in which the tags and permits shall be used and validated. To date, in consideration of Commission meeting priorities and responsiveness to customers, the Commission has delegated discretionary authority for consideration of requests for rain checks and refunds to the Director's Office. IDAPA 13.01.01.015 allows the Commission, by order, to delegate such powers to the Director as the law will permit.

The Commission has adopted rules to formalize certain parameters it wishes to apply to refunds and rain checks for nonresident refunds IDAPA 13.01.600.03 and for individuals affected by military deployments IDAPA 13.01.04.602. Further, the Commission has adopted rules that apply to refunds of control hunt and special control hunt fees IDAPA 13.01.06.260.

After discussion, the Commission requested a review and revision of the August, 2013 Delegation of Authority and appointed a subcommittee to work with staff on revision options. The item will be presented at the January 2015 meeting.

Communications: Report on Hunter/Angler Recruitment and Retention Program FY 14 BOC Accountability and Performance Report

Mike Keckler - Chief, Bureau of Communications,
Brenda Beckley – Hunter Recruitment & Retention Program Manager

Vicky Runnoe - Conservation Education Supervisor
Ben Studer – Fish and Game Webmaster

An overview of overall hunter and angler recruitment and retention efforts conducted by the Bureau of Communications along with an outline of website plans for the coming year was presented. It included a presentation of the second annual Bureau of Communications Performance and Accountability Report for FY14 (Appendix 43, Exhibit 73).

LANDS

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Settlement Agreement Briefing

Jeff Gould, Chief, Wildlife, provided a short briefing.

The State of Idaho and the Bonneville Power Administration have agreed on a 10-year mitigation program that resolves Idaho's share of the impacts of the federal Columbia River Power System hydropower dams on wildlife in southern Idaho.

Total agreement = \$40,382,722 to be paid over 10 years

The agreement is broken into 3 main parts:

Stewardship Account

- \$14M has been deposited into an EFIB (Endowment Fund Investment Board) account.
 - Idaho land grant Endowment Funds are expected to return 6.6% annually, or 3.7% after management costs and inflation.
 - These funds will provide operating and maintenance (O&M) funding in perpetuity for the 8,300 mitigation acres IDFG already owns and/or manages.
 - Idaho may also use Stewardship Account funds for restoration and acquisition.

Protection Agreement

- \$22M for the protection of no less than 8,588 acres and O&M of those lands in perpetuity.
 - Funds used to protect land must be balanced with funds deposited into the Stewardship Account for perpetual O&M of these new properties.
 - Acres credited under the settlement can include fee title, conservation easements, or restoration.
 - Each project to be credited under the agreement must be approved by and meet BPA requirements and processes outlined in the agreement.

Administration Contract

- \$4,218,972 for administration of the settlement and restoration of mitigation properties over 10 years.
 - As before, these funds come to IDFG through an annual contract of about \$400,000.
 - Those O&M activities not covered under the Administration Contract can be funded through the Stewardship Account but any funds taken from Stewardship and used for O&M reduce the Stewardship Account growth.

RULES

Trophy Species Briefing

Hollie Miyasaki, Wildlife Staff Biologist, provided a status report for 2014 (Appendix 47, Exhibit 74).

A biennial report on status of moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats and a preliminary list of issues and proposals to be scoped during public hearings is presented in November preceding adoption of harvest regulations in January of each odd-numbered year. In January 2015, the Fish and Game Commission will set seasons for moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats for the 2015 and 2016 hunting seasons. The following proposals are currently being considered by regional staff for scoping and public comment.

This agenda item is intended to inform Commissioners of issues and concerns relative to current status and statewide management issues and anticipated proposals for moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats for the 2015 and 2016 seasons.

Public input is received year-round through contacts with interested sportsmen. Proposals will be developed and circulated statewide for public review. Regional open houses will be conducted throughout the state December-January. Proposals will be distributed through news releases in all media outlets. Proposals and additional information will be provided on the Department website. Public input will be summarized and considered to guide development of the Department's recommendations to the Commission in January 2015.

REPORT

Compass Review

Deputy Director Jim Unsworth provided a review and update of the Compass.

Since 2005, The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has been operating under the strategic plan document *The Compass*. *The Compass* was developed through an extensive strategic planning process involving Idaho hunters, anglers, and trappers, Idaho citizens, representatives from state, local, tribal, and federal governments, and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game Commission and the Department. The 3 year process included focus groups, personal interviews, formal surveys, and workshops. The input was ultimately synthesized into the Department's current strategic plan *The Compass*.

The Compass was developed to:

- Align Department programs and actions with the values, needs, and expectations of Idaho hunters, anglers, and citizens as a whole.
- Involve the public in deciding what the Department will attempt to accomplish in the next 15 years.
- Enable the Department to respond to the anticipated changes in the physical, biological, and social environments.

- Initiate business practices that link strategic and action plans to the budget, evaluate progress toward goals, and employ adaptive management.

As Stated in the document, “*The Compass* is a “living” document. It is subject to change based on new information or circumstances. *The Compass* will receive an in depth review by the Commission at least every five years to ensure that the Department is aligned with the desires and expectations of stakeholders. The Department will annually review and report to the Commission progress towards the goals in *The Compass*.”

Commission discussion followed regarding what additions and changes the Commission would like to see in the Compass. The Compass is a 15 year plan, and we are 10 years into it. The desire of the Commission is to update the Compass, not a complete makeover. The Commission will work in several small groups to discuss what they would like to see in the document and then meet with Department staff in January to discuss ways to implement.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mission Statement Letter to Sportsmen

Director Moore plans to send an open letter to sportsmen and the public. The letter is similar to what was sent previously to employees regarding the mission of the Department. Director Moore provided a draft letter to the Commission for review and approval. The intent of the letter is to tell the stories of Fish and Game and to use as a tool to expand our communication with sportsmen. The Commission discussed and suggested changes and the communication path for distributing the *Director’s Open Letter to Sportsmen*.

Set the 2015 Commission Calendar

The Commission discussed and agreed upon the following calendar for 2015:

- January 21-22-23 Boise
- March 23-24 Boise
- May 19-20-21 Lewiston
- July 8-9-10 Pocatello
- November 18-19-20 Hailey

LANDS

Policy Process on Land Acquisitions

Gregg Servheen, Wildlife Program Coordinator, reviewed the Idaho Fish and Game Policy (Appendix 43, Exhibit 75). Idaho Code 36-104 authorizes the Idaho Fish and Game Commission to acquire lands or water for the restoration, propagation and protection of fish and wildlife; to provide public hunting, fishing and trapping areas; and for other specific uses. Idaho Code also

dedicates a portion of selected license fees for land acquisition and outlines specific procedures the Commission must follow in acquiring land and waters for these purposes.

REPORTS

Director's Report

Outdoor Life Magazine will present the Department one of four Open Country awards for our Access Yes! Program. These awards recognize individuals and agencies who have made important contributions to public access. The categories are Individual, Corporate, Non-Profit, and State Agency.

The Director's report stands as written.

Commissioner Reports

Salmon Region, Will Naillon

- The bridge accessing Island Park and a very popular boat ramp in the city of Salmon was found to be structurally unsound by ITD and was recommended for immediate closure. Fishing and Boating Access Coordinator from IDFG worked with the city of Salmon to identify an alternative boat ramp location. In a collaborative effort, the city kept the bridge open until the temporary ramp was in place, permits were quickly obtained by IDFG and the city of Salmon constructed a temporary boat ramp within eight days. The city of Salmon, with support from IDFG is working on grants to replace the failing bridge structure.

Southeast Region, Lane Clezie

- The "Wildavore" was well received.
- Pocatello Wellness Complex (outdoor recreation) is well underway with completion of the 6-acre recreational reservoir that will provide new, exciting urban fishing opportunity for Pocatello and other Portneuf Valley residents. Grand opening will be on or near Labor Day, 2015.
- The second annual Southeast Region Family Hunting workshop was a success with over 50 families participating.

Upper Snake Region, Kenny Anderson

- The Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Council has announced their opposition to delist Yellowstone grizzly bears and any subsequent proposal for grizzly bear hunting.
- This fall, 225 sturgeon were stocked at Idaho Falls on the Snake River.
- The Upper Snake Region hosted an open house for legislators. The purpose of the open house is to develop working relationships with area legislators and assist legislators with questions they may have regarding the Department.

Panhandle Region, Brad Corkill

- The Rose Lake Access site improvements were completed recently; this popular site will now be easier for the public to use for boat launching.
- Ducks Unlimited sponsored an early youth duck hunt with 28 kids participating.

Southwest Region, Blake Fischer

- Participated in a number of check stations with few wolf complaints.
- Nampa fisheries personnel completed triennial population estimates (rainbow trout, bull trout, and mountain whitefish) on the SF Boise River downstream of Anderson Ranch Dam and estimated rainbow trout fry production.

Magic Valley, Mark Doerr

- Reported that the Silver Creek land exchange provides good access for anglers.
- Check station data indicated increased success rates throughout the region for deer hunters with opening weekend success rates between 19 and 35% depending on location. Hunters seemed genuinely happy with their experiences and lots of first time successful hunters came through the check station.

Clearwater Region, Fred Trevey

- Coho Salmon season a first.
- Record numbers reported for fall chinook.
- Youth pheasant clinic in the region with 25 kids participating.

Commissioner Reports stand as written (Appendix 47, Exhibit 76).

MISCELLANEOUS

Planning for Next Meeting

The Commissioners discussed scheduled items for the upcoming meetings.

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

14-93 Commissioner Doerr moved and Commissioner Anderson seconded a motion to hold an executive session pursuant of subsections (b)(c)(f) of Idaho Code Section 67-2345 to discuss legal, lands and personnel.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Lane Clezie, Will Naillion, Mark Doerr, Fred Trevey, Kenny Anderson, Blake Fischer and Brad Corkill.

The executive session ended at 5:15 with no official action taken.

REPORT

Killing of Two Bighorn Sheep by a Tagholder in Unit 11

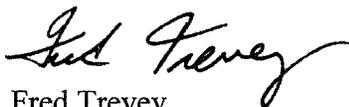
Chairman Trevey stated that the Department had informed him of the County Prosecutor Office's decision today to decline to file charges today regarding the killing of two bighorn sheep by a tagholder in Unit 11.

14-94 Commissioner Naillon moved and Commissioner Doerr seconded, to amend the agenda to receive information from the Department on the investigation. The Commission did not anticipate this item on the agenda because it was inappropriate to discuss the investigation while it was still active. All Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Chief Wooten discussed the investigation. He and Deputy Attorney General Trever provided general information on the exercise of law enforcement and prosecutorial discretion and other legal issues related to this type of situation. Based on the apparent accidental nature of the circumstances, the prosecutor declined to file criminal charges. Fish and Game enforcement officials agree with this decision. Chief Wooten stated that it's understandable for anyone who cares about bighorn conservation and has dreamed of this hunting opportunity, as many of us have, to be upset by the loss of the second ram. Everyone involved with the incident and investigation is troubled by this loss. We realize people may disagree with the decision not to proceed with criminal charges, and this decision was not made lightly.

Following the prosecutor's decision today, Fish and Game issued a formal warning to the individual regarding the killing of the second ram. Fish and Game will also use this incident to remind hunters to be careful in confirming their targets, and exercising caution when multiple animals are in an area. The Commission asked the Department to prepare a summary of the matter in response to public and media interest and to provide a reply to a letter from the Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation.

Adjournment



Fred Trevey
Chairman



Virgil Moore
Secretary